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Umno Youth-Unity Talks

STOP COAXING PAS TO ATTEND MEETING- UMNO YOUTH

By: R.Ravichandran

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today urged the party leadership to stop its efforts to coax PAS into attending a meeting to discuss Malay unity if the opposition party continues to employ delaying tactics and raises various new issues so that the talks will not materialise.

Umno Youth Secretary Zulkifli Alwi said today the latest proposal from PAS Spiritual Leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat that the Malays be represented by only one party was another PAS ploy to avoid the meeting with Umno.

"It is clear that PAS is still disputing and not convinced of Umno's sincerity in wanting the meeting. Hence Umno should stop making efforts to persuade PAS to attend the meeting if the opposition party continues to display this type of attitude," he told Bernama.

Nik Aziz was yesterday reported to have said that PAS wished to add another item to the Umno-PAS meeting agenda -- that only one party be retained to represent the Malays.

According to him if there were two parties, Malays would remain disunited and differ in their views even though both were involved in the same struggle.

Zulkifli said the Umno leadership should instead mobilise its entire machinery from top to bottom and meet the people and implement a wide range of programmes for the Malay community.

Zulkifli said the latest proposal from Nik Aziz who is Kelantan Menteri Besar that only one party be retained for the Malays was "an additional drama in PAS obstinacy".

"Hence Umno Youth does not want the party leadership to go all out to coax PAS to the extent of Umno being perceived by the people as a very weak party in desperate need of partnership with PAS."

"The earnest efforts to date of the Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the party leadership to prove their sincerity in wanting Malay unity are more than enough," he said.

Zulkifli said the Umno leadership had adopted a more than open and responsible attitude in ensuring that Malay interests were defended from the threats of certain groups.

On the other hand PAS was merely interested in ensuring the success of its own agenda and did not care two hoots for Malay unity which was being championed by Umno, he said.

"Umno Youth wishes to slam the PAS attitude of fishing in troubled waters and being over zealous of its own narrow political agenda," Zulkifli said.

-- BERNAMA

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