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Take action against members who sell votes as well, urges delegate

UMNO must act against those who sell their votes if money politics is to be curbed effectively.

"Only givers are being penalised so far ... action has not been taken against those who receive," said Ampang Jaya division chief Datuk Mufti Shuib.

Debating the motion of thanks to the presidential speech, Mufti, who represented Selangor Umno, said money politics could be wiped out with members' co-operation.

"The party president had said that members had sponsored Umrah packages and trips to Medan and Thailand. The house of Allah had been offered as a bait. I don't know about the attractions in Medan and Thailand," he said.

Mufti urged members to assume the responsibility to counter Opposition attacks on the party and not leave the job to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alone.

He said it was timely for members to deal with the baseless allegations hurled at the party and its leaders and stop the Opposition from having a field day.

Members, he said, had been silent far too long and Dr Mahathir was left on his own to handle issues raised by the Opposition.

"The president has to face many challenges himself and yet he had led the party to victory in four general elections," he said.

Mufti also cited instances when Dr Mahathir was alone in countering serious allegations made by Pas leaders.

"When a Pas leader said God also uses foul language, it was the president who fought back while Umno members kept quiet.

"When they said the president ridiculed the ulamas, members also kept quiet.

"Even if we have a locomotive engine made of gold pulling damaged coaches, everything will be seen as damaged," he added.

Mufti reminded members to be morally clean as this was one area which came under attack by the Opposition.

"This is one of Umno's weaknesses and it has been exploited by the Opposition," he said.

Mufti said that at Pas and Parti Keadilan Nasional ceramahs, both parties acknowledged the development brought about by the Umno-led Barisan Nasional Government but questioned the morals of party leaders.

"We did not lose because of the development of Kuala Lumpur City Centre or the Kuala Lumpur International Airport but because of our behaviour which has begun to stink. This, we will have to change," he added.

Segambut Umno division chief Kamaruddin Ambok urged Umno Youth and Puteri Umno to embark on an all-out effort to recruit as many members as possible into the party to further strengthen and enhance its effectiveness.

Kamaruddin said the movements should begin work immediately.

He said the Opposition was going full steam to influence the people and gain popularity and Umno must counter this.

"Umno has always been the backbone of Malay unity and although it would be difficult for Pas to achieve this, we must not be complacent and rest on our laurels," he said.

He said it was critical that there be no traitors among Umno members as "one bad apple could well lead to the deterioration of all the others".

Kamaruddin said while Umno members were prepared to accept Pas' members as their brothers in Islam, Pas was not willing to do so.

"This is the difference between us. While we are willing to set all differences aside for the overall betterment of the community, the Opposition is clearly not willing to do so.

"Instead, it appears that their only interest is in themselves," he said.

He called on all members, regardless of their positions, to go on the ground in an all-out effort to maintain grass roots support.

On globalisation, Kamaruddin urged all party members to place their full trust in the country's leadership to effectively steer the nation through this era.

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