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## Ibrahim slams Pas leaders

THE Government should amend the Anti-Corruption Act 1987 to make whipping mandatory for those who commit graft.

Pasir Mas Umno chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali said such stern action should be taken in view of the many corruption cases reported of late.

"Fines alone are insufficient and not a deterrent when the loss involves millions of ringgit. The people's money must not be misused. The Government should get rid of the fines and not hesitate to cane these culprits."

Claiming that corruption was widespread in Kelantan, Ibrahim said the Pas-led State Government was using Islam to get support when they were only concerned with enriching themselves.

He also claimed the State Government used proxies to apply for logging concessions.

On another note, Ibrahim proposed the appointment of politicians as presidents of local councils. "We have so many qualified and experienced people who are doctors, professionals, degree holders and so on. There is nothing wrong with appointing these people to such posts.

"After all, they represent the Government and their appointment will be a win-win situation for the country as well as Umno. Let us give them the power to prove their mettle."

Ibrahim also said the Government should accord free medical treatment to Kemas officials who were at present on two-year contracts.

"After their contracts finish, these people do not get pensions and other benefits. I met a Kemas official while he was seeking treatment at a hospital and he told me he did not have enough money. Let us accord them some form of benefits in line with our caring concept and in appreciation of their contributions."

Debating the motion of thanks on the presidential address, Ibrahim said the Malays must be able to define and understand the Prime Minister's words of advice.

"His speech, though not that hard-hitting, reflected his frustrations and disappointment with the Malays."

The task, therefore, was to read between the lines.

"Failure to understand the PM's speech will make us act impulsively and consequently, we are the ones who will lose out."

Ibrahim also said Dr Mahathir was praised by everyone and was known internationally. "However, despite his successes, he is frustrated that the Malays are still divided and lagging in some sectors."

The Malays, Ibrahim said, like to act impulsively. "They were jolted when the Government recently announced its move to implement the 10 per cent quota for entry of non-Bumiputera students into Mara Junior Science Colleges.

"The move was actually a wise step to enhance racial integration.

"We must be able to understand the objectives behind each and every move made by the Government and not simply object without checking the facts."

Lambasting Pas leaders, Ibrahim said the Malays were partly divided because of Pas' actions.

"Their only concern is to further divide the Malays and they are not at all concerned with the increasing social problems in Kelantan."

Ibrahim said a report provided to him by the Kelantan State police chief showed that a total of 1,182 crime cases had been reported in the State in

the first five months of this year, as against 1,021 last year.

Ibrahim also claimed that seven licences had been given to sell liquor, compared with just two last year, while more than 100 unlicensed sellers had been identified.

"Who approved all this? No one else but Tok Nik Paul," he said, apparently referring to Kelantan Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

"In Rome, we have Pope John Paul but in Kelantan, we have Tok Nik Paul. When Nik Aziz was asked why no action was taken against these unlicensed liquor sellers, he said it was not his problem but the problem of people from a neighbouring country."

Ibrahim added Nik Aziz also said the power to handle such problems lay in the police and Customs Department, both of which were Federal Government agencies.

"What he knows is to put the blame on the Government but never himself."

Ibrahim said if Prime Minister could go and see Pope John Paul, a similar effort should be made to see Nik Aziz.

Towards the end of his speech, Ibrahim urged Dr Mahathir to stay over in Kelantan during his visits to the State. "From what I have observed, PM never stays over ... he goes but he would return after that.

"If we are serious about wresting Kelantan from Pas, Dr Mahathir must do what he is doing in Langkawi now ... he visits and stays over during the weekends."

He said efforts to wrest Kelantan and Terengganu from Pas should be collective and concerted.

Ibrahim said Kelantan Umno would stand solidly behind Dr Mahathir and work hard to ensure victory for the party in the coming general election.

Umno leaders could not afford to let schisms within the party spread. "Democracy is relevant so long as the Malays' interest is not affected.

"If it is, to hell with democracy," he said to a loud applause from the floor.

On the issue of human rights in the country, he said such views must be expressed with utmost consideration to prevent further splits among the people.

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