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Malays told not to scheme to bring down their leaders

LEARN from history and avoid repeating mistakes to ensure Malays succeed, Selangor delegate Ahmad Bujang said.

He said the Malays were once a great race, with the Malay language as the lingua franca in the region. The Langkasuka, Majapahit, Palembang and Malacca empires, Ahmad said, were once respectable in this part of the world.

"However, the glory of the Malacca sultanate, set up by Parameswara in 1402, did not last long. In 1511, the Portuguese attacked and conquered Malacca, with a mere 1,200 soldiers."

The downfall of Malacca, Ahmad said, was not because the Portuguese was strong but because the Malays were split and involved in in-fighting.

As a result, the Portuguese ruled Malacca even longer than the entire duration of the Malacca sultanate, before the Dutch government took over in 1641, followed by the English in 1824.

After World War Two, Malay nationalists like Datuk Onn Jaafar emerged to fight the British and demand for Independence and Malay rights.

"We must learn from the past and not repeat the same mistakes. To ensure we succeed, we must remain united and give our full backing to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and members of the party's supreme council ... we must not scheme and bring them down," he said.

"If members remain united and strong, Umno would have no problems making a clean sweep in not only Selangor, but also in Pas-controlled Kelantan and Terengganu during the next general election."

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