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`Have confidence in elected leaders'

PLACE your full confidence in the party leadership to handle issues affecting the Malays and stop being fault-finders.

That was the advice of Datuk Badruldin Amiruldin, one of the most popular speakers at Umno general assemblies.

"We put them there, so we follow what they want us to do.

"They are not going to sell our race; will they have the heart to do that? One or two maybe...", said Badruldin as he pointed to the supreme council members sitting on stage.

"Datuk Bad" as he is fondly referred to, was debating the president's speech in his usual hilarious style.

He said members should not doubt that the supreme council took all things into consideration before making its decisions.

"Give them our confidence, they will defend the Malays," he said, cautioning that internal problems should be kept within the party as people outside were watching Umno's goings-on closely through the newspapers and Internet.

At this point, Badruldin, who was representing Kedah Umno, also reminded supreme council members not to leak things that transpired during the council's meeting.

They should also not oppose a decision where they themselves had been involved in the decision making because it only caused leaders down the ranks a lot of problems in trying to explain the decision to members.

To Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad seated on stage with supreme council members, Badruldin advised him not to be bothered by the no-confidence resolution passed against him by the Senai division.

"Depa gempaq saja" (they were only "poking") because Musa is new in politics.

"They would not dare do it if it were the president," he said to laughter from the floor.

But jokes aside, Badruldin expressed his concern about the lack of English teachers in rural schools and called on the Education Ministry to address this problem.

On Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's concern that some Malays had failed to change despite various forms of Government assistance, Badruldin said it was about time Malays dropped their lackadaisical attitude and strove to improve themselves.

"We must not be dependent on the Government and become a subsidy race. We want Malays to be independent," he said.

He questioned why the Malays, with all the facilities and assistance they enjoyed, could not continue the struggle of those before them who had survived colonial rule and united to fight for the country's independence.

He urged Malays to look at the achievement of seaman Datuk Azhar Mansor who sailed solo round the world and called on them to emulate his courage.

Badruldin said the generation of today must not give cause for their children and grandchildren to curse them for being irresponsible should the Malays find themselves unable to protect their race in future.

Malays, he said, must not be proud of the popular saying "Takkan Melayu Hilang Di Dunia" (Malays will not perish in this world) if they lived in abject state in their own country.

"What will happen to the Malays if our country is re-colonised and the status of the Malays gone? Our faces will not be beaming," he said.

Badruldin also accused Pas party leaders of being agents for the West to disunite the Malays and destroy the young generation in the interest of their political ideology.

"It is the Malays themselves who are traitors to their own race, not other races. Other races are only waiting to lead when the Malays become weak," he added.

Citing an example, Badruldin said Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had once said the New Economic Policy would be abolished if Pas came into power.

"I want to tell Hadi that the NEP was created after the 1969 incident. We in Umno must be brave to fight Pas even with our blood because they are the traitors," he added.

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