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`Insincerity in serving masses the root cause of problems within Umno'

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - Insincerity among some Umno leaders about providing services to the people has been identified as the cause of problems in the party that include infighting.

Johor Umno chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said this today when closing the two-day State Umno convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

He said Umno leaders would not have the time to squabble among themselves if they sincerely gave of their best in service to the people who voted for them. "Let me be frank in this speech. There are actually so many things we need to do in order to fulfil our responsibilities.

"I don't think we can really afford the time to fight among ourselves if we are to sincerely concentrate our efforts to serve the people."

Ghani said Umno leaders should also have no time and energy to commit the "eight deadly sins" recently outlined by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The eight "sins" are greed for power, thirst for revenge, hate, jealousy, blind loyalty to an individual, opportunistic tendencies, selfishness and money politics.

Ghani reminded the delegates, who included the State's 20 division chiefs, that the future of the party depended upon how they were perceived by the people.

"We are where we are because the people have entrusted us with the responsibility to lead them. It is therefore our priority to provide them with the necessary services and attend to their needs with all the sincerity we can muster."

Ghani also touched on concerns regarding the Government's decision to have a 10 per cent quota for non-Bumiputera students in matriculation programmes and Mara junior science colleges.

He said the move was necessary to provide Bumiputera students with competition to do better in their studies.

However, Ghani said, Johor Umno was hoping the Government could postpone the proposed introduction of English in the teaching of Science and Mathematics subjects in school so that a proper study could be carried out on the matter.

"We feel there may be a better way to tackle the poor command of English among Bumiputera students and for this I think we will have to consult the experts.

"We do not want efforts to make Bahasa Malaysia a language of knowledge to be unnecessarily put at risk by this move," he said.

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