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Umno-Reaction (Veterans)

UMNO VETERANS WANT PARTY MEMBERS TO HEED DR MAHATHIR'S ADVICE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Musa Hitam said today that Umno members must be sensitive, knowledgeable and sophisticated to effectively tackle the internal and external threats facing the party.

These included recolonisation by the western powers as mentioned by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his keynote address at the Umno general assembly here, he said.

"What was stressed was the attitude of the Europeans since the early days that 'might is right' and if we are aware of their behaviour, we can equip ourselves to face them because we cannot escape from the reality of the threat of a globalised world," he said.

On the jostling for party posts, Musa said that this happened in all organisations, including Umno, and the reminder was to the party leaders not to go overboard for posts and positions, he said.

Former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the elements of sabotage within the party could be reduced if the leaders took into account the views of all the members and did not leave out any party.

If necessary, the party's election code of ethics could be improved upon to prevent undesired incidents, he said.

Former Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, who is now secretary-general of the Barisan Nasional (BN), said Umno would have a gloomy future if the internal problems were not checked.

"We must seriously ensure that Umno has no problems and will not die again because if Umno dies due to internal problems there's no more meaning to this struggle. We need honesty and sincerity from all party members," he said.

He said internal problems were like "sores" that must be cauterised.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the movement was moved by Dr Mahathir's sincere reminder to the party members to preserve unity.

He said Umno Youth resolved to continue to champion the interests of the race and religion by upholding the interests of the majority rather than the individual as advised by the party president.

-- BERNAMA

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