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Umno-Debate

APs, PROTON AND APOLOGY HOT TOPICS AT UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- The issue of Approved Permits (APs) for car imports, Proton and the question of apology became the main topics during debate of the presidential address at Umno's 56th general assembly here.

Umno Jasin deputy head, Datuk Mohd Said Yusof, who is also the member of Parliament for Jasin, touched on the issues humourously but with a clear message that had the delegates, including the Supreme Council in stitches.

Said during his debate wanted the government to be more serious and careful in the issuing of APs and a senior minister's position created to monitor them.

He also proposed that issuing of APs be entrusted to Umno secretary-general for distribution to the party's divisions.

"If each division gets 40 APs, and there are 191 divisions altogether, it means even 8,000 APs won't be used up...this way Umno won't have to struggle to find funds for its programmes," he said.

He also thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for solving the AP controversy between former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"I want to congratulate our president (Abdullah) who solved the matter wisely..., if I wan't to follow my heart, I am angry because my name is not on the list," said Said, who has been given the title Said kas-kas (poppy seeds) by Members of Parliament for raising the kas-kas issue in Parliament.

Referring to Rafidah, whom he called "Kak Dah, he also questioned whether those who got the bulk of APs or AP kings had reciprocated in kind to Umno.

In future, he told her to give them (APs) to Umno only.

On the issue of apologising to Dr Mahathir, Said asked Rafidah to settle the ematter quickly an get it over with.

"We Malays are good...if we make a mistake, just apologise lah," he said.

On Proton, Rafidah was again questioned as to why national car status was given to so many parties.

"In Korea they only allow 2.5 per cent of cars to be imported while in Japan only five per cent. Why are we allowing so much imports?," he asked.

He also urged the government to be serious in its national automotive policy to provide more opportunities to Malays to participate in supporting (vendor) industries.

-- BERNAMA

NER AFY LAT HA