

PKR: Be all you can be
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I refer to report Who is dangerous, Umno or PKK?

This is the same question, I have also asked myself while closely following the progress of the PKR's recent party elections.

The PKR party elections sprang a few surprises that has given me a completely new perspective of a party that is growing in popularity at the expense of Umno but internally doing some of the same kind of 'cleansing', a common hallmark of Malaysian political scene.

It may seem to be a sort of exercise in mobilisation and consolidation to make the party stronger and better united to face the mounting pressures and insinuations thrown at them by the other side. However, the perception it gives to some people is that there exists a tight and formidable control against anyone who questions any discrepancy or wrong doing by the main office bearers.

Democracy is religiously preached by politicians at every given opportunity, but what is actually put into practise in their own environment is total control and monopoly. This is the very reason why party leaders remain in their secured positions for as long as they see fit, not due to the decision of the majority in the party.

PKR wants to portray itself as a multi racial party but fails miserably in its attempts to build a solid base to show its sincerity and concern for all Malaysians. It is not so much about reflecting a particular racial composition but a leadership that truly works for the interests and wellbeing of all Malaysians that betters most.

Umno is seen to rule with an iron fist both within its party and also in the way it dictates and controls the other component parties that make up the BN. Umno expects everyone to follow what it says and without question or even a slightest murmur. Any constructive criticism or suggestion is viewed as either as a violation of one's racial or religious right and prerogative

PKR works hard to find its own identity that represents fairness and justice but it has to resolve its own internal crisis which became even more apparent with the recent party elections. It has the makings of a new force to change the Malaysian political landscape and do away with the colonial flawed legacy, inherited by the founding fathers.

But it cannot work as a well-oiled machinery if the internal squabbles and complaints are not resolved or pushed under the carpet.

While Umno is not expected to shed its skin and will continue to play a game to appease and satisfy the majority race even though it is now becoming more difficult to preach the same old story or keep on playing the same old tune, Umno must realise a change can be imminent and, thus, need to approach the pressing issues in a more pragmatic manner rather than by the way of show of force.

Umno's political style creates much more suspicion and ulterior intentions than before.

Some view it as fighting for its survival in view of the embarrassing show in the last general elections. But it could be an exertion of control and authority over everyone in light of increasing opposition to its dominant rule.

PKR knows very well what is expected of them and should work very hard to correct whatever damage it has done to its image. It is more a do or die situation for them with all the odds piled against them.

Umno tries to use fear and intimidation to win support while PKR uses a gentler approach to handle issues of national importance. In comparison, PKR looks to be more tolerant and understanding of the sentiments and needs of all Malaysians.

Umno has projected itself to be dangerous and inconsiderate in quite a number of ways with little regard to promote a Malaysian mentality.

However, it is too early to judge PKR or as to what course it will pursue if given the mandate. Once in power, situations change and promises can be broken.

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