

Mat Taib: Umno needs Perkasa because it has failed

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By Lu Wei Hoong

KUALA LUMPUR The very existence of pressure groups such as Perkasa has shown that Umno has failed to perform its duties to the Malays, says former Umno vice-president Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

Muhammad, who joined PAS on Monday, said Umno never in the past needed "hooligans" to aid in its struggle and what was happening today meant the party had deviated from its struggle.

"(Now Umno) needs Ibrahim Ali, Zulkifli Nordin and those extremist groups to create pressure.

"Umno has ruled for 60 years. Why the need for pressure from these groups to promote (the Malay) economy?

"It has been 60 years. Umno should be able to achieve the 30 percent target for Malay equity, increase the education level of (Malay) and the position of women.

"But (now) it needs these pressure groups to do it," Muhammad told about 100 people during a rally for PKR's Batu candidate Tian Chua this afternoon.

Muhammad said he did not understand the logic of Umno seeking assistance from pressure groups despite it claiming to have the support of one million public servants.

'We are too kind to Umno'

He explained that the purpose of his family's original involvement in Umno was to serve the people.

"We were busy helping (the people) to apply for scholarship and welfare assistance."

However, he lamented that the current Umno division chief in Batu has been focusing on making money instead of taking care of people.

This, he added, is because Umno has become corrupted after almost 60 years in power.

"In Australia, if the ruling party is in power for more than 10 years, the people will change the government. This is because its enthusiasm to serve has gone."

"But we are too kind to keep Umno for 60 years."

Hence, Muhammad argued that new blood is needed to chart a new course for Malaysia.

Ironically, Muhammad was forced to resign as Selangor menteri besar in 1997 after he was charged in Australia with bringing in undeclared foreign currencies amounting to RM3.8 million. However, he was later acquitted by the court.

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