

Umno vs royalty, Round 3?
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YOURSAY 'How come the party cannot control Johor, Umno's birthplace?'

BN, too, upset with 'royal' housing Bill?

Swipenter: Why wait to chuck out the federal constitution and parliamentary democracy? Just revert back to the system of sultanates.

One by one, the sultans of their respective state would want the same "royal" housing Bill as the Johor sultan's.

If the state legislative assembly is not happy with the proposal, they should do what is right instead of just talking about it.

PJ Utara Voter: Of course, reject the Bill. I'm already sure the Johor MB will not continue next term as he is just being walked all over by the sultan and his advisors.

How come the party cannot control Johor, Umno's birthplace? Who in Umno is selling out the voters and the Johoreans?

Gerard Lourdesamy: The Utusan Malaysia article is seditious and treacherous. The statements they contain amount to treason and disloyalty to the sultan.

Historically, the ruler prior to the intervention of the British was vested with executive powers. To all intents and purposes, the ruler was an absolute monarch.

This changed with British intervention and the imposition of British advisers on the ruler who were acting on the instructions of the colonial governor based in Singapore.

The Johor constitution was promulgated in 1895 and some executive powers were vested in the ruler.

Some of these powers were gradually reduced through subsequent amendments up until the 1948 Federation of Malaya Agreement and thereafter in 1957, the sultan became a constitutional monarch.

If the present sultan wants to reclaim his divinely ordained powers, privileges and prerogatives that have a historical basis, what is so objectionable, so long as he acts with integrity, responsibility and fairness in the interests of his subjects.

Casey: "Dignity does not consist in possessing honours, but in deserving them," said Aristotle, the Greek philosopher.

The state or quality of being worthy of honour or respect is regardless of whether one is a king, a president, a prime minister, or a man on the street.

In a globalised world where there's free flow of information, the "katak bawah tempurung" mindset can no longer applies. Nor can one behaves like an ostrich; bury one's head under the sand and hope to be invisible.

Even an absolute monarch the likes of sultan of Brunei would incur criticisms and condemnations from the rest of the world for something he did to his own subjects.

That brings us to a very interesting quote from Gianni Versace: "In the past, people were born royal. Nowadays, royalty comes from what you do."

Vijay47: If just two more Pakatan Rakyat candidates are been voted into the Johor state assembly, this contentious situation would not have arisen.

By the way, Malaysiakini, I suggest your journalists steer clear of Johor or you might be facing a sedition charge soon. Or worse.

Fair Play: I am not surprised. Why should I? The real threat to Umno is not DAP as it made out to be.

Dr M issues a veiled royal caution

Slumdog: When former PM Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed his view that "there is already a feeling of disrespect for the royals and that this may lead to other forms of disrespect," why isn't he being accused and charged with sedition?

When Karpal Singh, (God bless his soul) expressed a personal legal opinion during the Perak constitutional crisis, he was pilloried, verbally attacked and charged and found guilty of sedition.

But Mahathir is untouchable.

Famed6305: To protect the institution of monarchy, lines should be clearly drawn. After all, Mahathir's contribution to the country was the passing of constitutional amendments on the doing away of royal consent for law to be effective in 1983 and the removal of royal immunity in 1992.

Who else knows better on the matter?

Paul Warren: All this is coming about because Umno started relying on the royalty when

positioning themselves as the defenders of the royalty. They also positioned themselves as defenders of Islam and got the ulama to back them.

So the royalty are now demanding payback and the ulama are imposing themselves more and more through the Friday sermons as well as enforcement actions and so on.

Pputeh: Much as I may not like the good doctor, but on this occasion he stands head and shoulders above the pack.

Don't forget this was the man who took the bull by the horns and 'tamed' them. And not a word from PM Najib Razak. Either he is MIA (missing in action) or he has lost his tongue.

TC Chan: I would rather have Mahathir and his seditious comments than empower the royals. It will be just one step too far if that bill is passed.

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