

## **Bersatu has no soul, claims Pulai Umno man**

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Pulai Umno Youth information chief Md Shaqib Shahrilnizam has mounted an extraordinary attack on Perikatan Nasional coalition partner Bersatu, saying that in moving to accept non-Malays, the party has lost its soul and its admission into Muafakat Nasional should be reconsidered.

"Bersatu is a soulless political party that floats like a waterlily without roots.

"They sacrificed their original struggle for the Malays by (moving towards) accepting former PKR members who were partyless floaters led by (Senior Minister) Azmin Ali, last Sunday," Shaqib said in a statement today.

"Three years after (former prime minister) Dr Mahathir Mohamad established the party to house former Umno members dissatisfied with then premier Najib Abdul Razak under a Malay-based party, Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin completely abandoned the founding principles of the party.

"He changed it to a multiracial party to accommodate Azmin and gang for his personal political expediency," Shaqib added.

Bersatu had announced plans to hold an extraordinary general meeting soon, primarily to amend the party constitution to attract more non-Malay and non-bumiputera members.

Its deputy president Ahmad Faizal Azumu said the meeting will also discuss Azmin's appointment as one of the party's vice-presidents.

Shaqib said Bersatu had struggled under Mahathir to attract a membership of an estimated 100,000 Malays and has now betrayed its founding principles to cast its membership net wider to attract non-Malays, with an ambitious target of obtaining one million members.

"I doubt non-Malays will embrace this radical change and join Bersatu when there are time-tested multiracial parties such as PKR and DAP," he added.

Not pulling his punches, Shaqib said Bersatu under Muhyiddin was behaving in a callous manner, betraying Muslims and Malays by applying to join Muafakat, which he said was a coalition set up on a common charter by Umno and PAS to defend the Malays and Islam.

"This is shape-shifting by Bersatu, which was a Malay-based party when it applied to join Muafakat two weeks ago and now has become a multiracial one just a weekend after it was accepted by Muafakat top leaders.

"This record of deception begs a review of the proposed inclusion of Bersatu, as such treacherous behaviour cannot be tolerated in Muafakat," he added.

Blasting Bersatu further, Shaqib said it was easy for the party to shift positions and abandon its principles because it is a party without grassroots and moves where the political currents take it.

He said Pulai Umno Youth wants the supreme council of Muafakat to re-evaluate the admission of Bersatu into the pact.

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