

## **YOURSAY | Were the Umno sackings necessary?**

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Kilimanjaro: Politics is not new to Johor Umno chief Hasni Mohammad. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was the deputy minister when he was sacked from his post in the government and Umno.

It is often acknowledged that politics is not for the faint-hearted. Hasni was the poster boy during the Johor state elections. That came with a near-certain prize of being the chief minister too, but that did not happen.

There was talk that he was one of those who signed the statutory declaration in favour of Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin as the prime minister again. If that is true, then it means that he shot himself in the foot.

All BN candidates selected to stand in the 15th general election had signed an undertaking that gives Umno president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as the Umno leader

to decide on which path the party shall travel after the election.

Then there is the anti-hopping law, which became a necessity with "frogs" jumping at their will through the Sheraton Move.

It ignored the importance and made meaningless voter participation and their choice in the democratic elective process.

Every time I recall the Sheraton Move, one face that has stuck in my mind is that of Sembrong MP Hishammuddin Hussein and I also personally believed that he should be stopped from dancing with his antics. Imagine the chaos he would have created without such caveats.

Further refinement of the anti-hopping law may be necessary and may evolve as more of the Sheratons are staged. Politicians are strange bedfellows. There are neither permanent friends nor enemies in politics. Instead of dwelling on convenient politics, Hasni should learn to move on.

Mazilamani: Raising objections by the former prime minister and Umno vice-president Ismail Sabri Yaakob for not correctly observing and meeting the due process before suspending or terminating the membership from Umno of key members sounds very hollow and shallow.

He, as the then prime minister and vice-president of Umno, was a witness to all subterfuge activities and open criticism of the party leaders (including him) by the now-suspended or terminated members, which prevented Ismail Sabri from hauling them up and advising them to stop undermining the party. Did he ever attempt to do that?

The perpetrators must have known that what they were doing is wrong. Ismail Sabri has given himself away as a reticent supporter of this anti-leadership group making him equally guilty as the others.

Is Ismail Sabri declaring his candidacy to take on Zahid for the Umno president's position? Are the sacked and suspended members prepared to challenge the decision in court, where many matters implicating them might be unravelled?

Albert ponniah: More than anyone, if one owes gratitude to Muhyiddin, it is Ismail Sabri. He was never a prime minister candidate. Muhyiddin made him a public figure to broadcast pandemic Covid-19 reports at a time when every Malaysian was glued to it.

When Muhyiddin was forced to appoint a deputy, he chose one who was considered fit to sit in the chair posing no challenge. Never mistake hidden ambition in anyone. So, when Muhyiddin was forced out by failures, Ismail Sabri

next in line worked his way in.

He did everything possible to remain another term though hardly with any clue to solve the impossible decline of the economy and the growing social and religious divisiveness in the country.

The urge for power and position is not going to go away from the former prime minister. His dilemma without a clue how to deal with it.

Frans Rozario: Victims of their folly, but in the case of Hishammuddin, his attempt to flee possible investigation and prosecution was what led to this.

His shouts of 'No Anwar! No DAP!' was the most unambiguous indication of this.

The MACC must seriously look into all allegations against Hishammuddin and if need be, the government must appoint a new MACC head.

BlackEagle8414: One party says due process was completed and action taken, another says due process was not undertaken. Who is telling the truth?

Umno, please sort your internal matters out without blurting everything out to the public. Washing dirty linen in the public domain will only increase the

ridicule in the rakyat's opinion of you.

PurpleTurtle8618: Umno is not a court of law where it has to observe strict legal processes. The current leadership has the overarching power and what Umno did in purging those errant leaders was follow the majority delegates' wishes.

What they did was a serious matter.

Imagine, hardly hours after the 15th general election results were known, this group of leaders quickly jumped to lend support to Muhyiddin. They did not even have the courtesy to refer to the Umno leadership.

Some had sabotaged other Umno candidates without feeling remorse or guilt. If no action was taken, it would mean Zahid and the Umno leadership were lame ducks.

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