

Rulers Must Not Be Shielded From The Truth
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SHAH ALAM - The Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Nazrin Shah said rulers should not be shielded from the truth and must be told the real story.

In addition, rulers should never be surrounded by people with personal interests who are willing to use them as tools.

"Rulers must have advisers who are sincere, sensitive to the people's needs and bold to state the truth," he said at 'Wacana Ilmu Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) with the theme "The Role of Malay Rulers in Nurturing Unity" at Dewan Agong Tuanku Canselor here yesterday.

Raja Nazrin said rulers should be willing to accept the fact, no matter how bitter, as justice could not be upheld without the truth.

"Rulers can't play meaningful role if they are given a rosy picture. The false impression is unfair as he is denied the right to conduct his responsibility fairly."

He fears that shielding rulers from truth will separate them from the people making it difficult to address integrity, statehood, loyalty and unity.

"Exploiting sentiments is easy as the people easily fall for promises. The prescription can only heal if the syndrome is identified.

"It is unwise if the nation and people choose to reject reality, blurring the vision as to real reasons that affect unity."

Raja Nazrin said stiff political competition had exploited sensitive religious and racial issues and dissatisfaction of the people.

"In all conflicts, no one party is right all the time and no one party is wrong all the time.

"The methods to achieve total victory by beating foes have cast aside good manners, customs, morals and religious elements."

He fears that rising political temperature would turn dreams of unity into a nightmare adding tThere should be a netural, credible and acceptable institution to lower it.

It was important for rulers to be not only above political polemics but also have the trust and responsibility to ensure peace and harmony.

"Rulers must use wisdom to calm the situation but they do not have a "magic lamp" to keep the unity especially when the siutation has become chaotic."

Raja Nazrin said the rulers role is to give advice privately so that it is not misinterpreted as directly interfering with the administration.

"The credibility of some national instruments require recovery of perception and need improvement in line with current world dynamics to restore confidence in the people."

He said unity would not be achieved in an unstable and immature political climate post 12th general election with calls for reality check and demands for change.

"Unity requires a willingness to sacrifice, accept defeat willingly and celebrate victory with humility," he added.

(Bernama)

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