

'Ask why ruler is displeased'

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Is it just that the particular ruler is being difficult, unwilling to accept the principles of democracy, wanting to return to feudalism and the absolute authority of the monarch?

I do not think so. There must be a reason why the ruler refuses to accept the candidate named by the party. But the ruler chooses not to reveal the reasons and indulge in public debates. He merely expresses his displeasure by refusing to do what normally the rulers would do.

Concerned Malaysians must ask what the particular candidate has done which is so wrong that it incurs the displeasure of the ruler.

There are lots of talk in the town. Terengganu is blessed with petroleum deposits. It should get 5% of the total earning from oil production. The federal government, fearing the previous PAS government might use

this money wrongly, had withheld payment.

But when the Barisan Nasional regained Terengganu, the money, now called *Wang Ehsan*, was lavishly spent by the federal government on Terengganu. It is not a small sum. Over these years *Wang Ehsan* totalled several billions.

We know that since the Barisan Nasional regained Terengganu in 2004, all kinds of projects have been developed in Terengganu. This includes The Monsoon Cup, luxury housing for sale to foreigners, a Crystal Mosque and theme park, university, etc. Some of these projects are very good but many are totally unnecessary and wasteful.

But what the Terengganu people are saying is that all these mega projects costing billions of ringgit have been contracted out to people outside Terengganu. Terengganu contractors got practically nothing.



But additionally, they say the contracts all went to one person and they are suspicious that behind this person are members of the first family. The rumours also say that the previous *mentri besar* was responsible for these things happening and of course, they think that he might have benefited financially.

The rumours went on to say that the prime minister might have influenced the *mentri besar* into doing wrong things.

These are all rumours. It will be quite impossible to prove anything as the perpetrators are skilled in hiding themselves.

This is not good for a government keen to abolish corruption and be transparent. To clear its name, an investigation should be made.

But the public is leery of investigations by government agencies and departments. Even Royal Commissions are not highly regarded. The people believe, not true of course, that the government has been interfering with the work of the Anti-Corruption Agency, the police and the Attorney-General's Chambers. The say this is borne out by the results of investigations by these agencies.

When a deputy minister was accused of accepting money for the release of a detainee, the Attorney-General said there was no case because the detainee said he did not give any money to the deputy minister. It is so easy. If you have a case involving someone, all the enforcement agencies need to do is to ask him whether he was involved. If he says "no", then there is no case.

For some reason, judges are finding that people accused of murder are not guilty because of insufficient evidence by the police. Yet people who are totally not involved in a case, who were not accused of any misdeeds and who did not appear in court at all and been given a hearing are found guilty and publicly condemned.

The public cannot be blamed for not having faith in government agencies doing investigations. The public cannot be blamed for suspecting cover-ups by the government or worse still the government may be using these enforcement agencies to threaten people.

To clear its good name, the government should get credible foreign agencies to do the investigation. Of course, they must be given full access to the documents, etc.

Now my detractors are going to say I did worse things when I was prime minister. Well if that is so, let us have the foreign agencies investigate me also. I am aware that people are looking into possible misdeeds by me during my 22 years so as to threaten me and ask me to shut up. So far they have not found anything.

Not only have I not taken anything that was not due to me while I was prime minister, but I have given back to the government and the people everything that I had received as gifts during my tenure of office. The government had offered me land in Kedah and Langkawi and I had refused to accept. I have a five-acre piece of land in Putrajaya which I paid for even though the government was offering it to me free.

Unless there is a frame-up, I think there should be nothing to pin on me. Even other accusations against me, including the dismissal of judges, were not my doing and I do not feel obliged to apologise. Ask the tribunal to apologise.

The person asking that the government should apologise for what happened to Tun Salleh Abas may have forgotten that as president of the Muslim Lawyers Association, he fully supported the action that was taken. He castigated the Bar Council for condemning Tun Hamid Omar over the dismissal of judges. Now he wants to be more correct than correct. I wonder why.