

GROWING DISCONTENT

'Muhyiddin no longer the leader we once knew'

KUALA LUMPUR: Calls are growing for Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to step down.

The latest call came from Indera Mahkota member of Parliament Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, who claimed that the former prime minister has lost the leadership qualities he once possessed.

Saifuddin said Muhyiddin no longer demonstrated the leadership traits based on manners, knowledge and skill that he displayed when he founded the party.

"The point is, he (Muhyiddin) has lost his leadership qualities.

"He is no longer the Tan Sri Muhyiddin we once knew," he said, confirming that he and several other Bersatu members have issued a statement calling for Muhyiddin's resignation.

Saifuddin also questioned Muhyiddin's management of the party's top leadership, which he described as no longer inclusive, citing the failure to convene Supreme Council meetings.

"He hasn't called for meetings, so how are we supposed to dis-

cuss anything? If he can't even find his son-in-law, how are we supposed to find him?" he said.

In addition to calling on Muhyiddin to resign, Saifuddin also urged two senior party leaders, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali and Tun Faisal Ismail Aziz, to relinquish their positions.

He alleged that Azmin, who is Bersatu secretary-general, must first resolve two key issues that have affected his credibility.

"Azmin faces two problems. First, he must address his video scandal.

"Second, he has become too autocratic. For example, he recently issued a letter that was very draconian in nature," he said.

Saifuddin also claimed that Bersatu information chief Tun Faisal had failed to perform his duties in disseminating party information, saying he acts more like a "chief provocateur".

In his immediate response, Tun Faisal said Saifuddin's remarks reflected certain parties' growing sense of desperation.

He said it appeared that external elements may have infiltrated the party, prompting some members to act recklessly.



Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah

"They show no regard for the damage and destruction they are causing to the party through their words and deeds," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Tun Faisal said public support for Bersatu and the acceptance of the party among non-governmental entities today were not because of Saifuddin or his faction, but because of Muhyiddin.

"The findings from the Institut Masa Depan Malaysia (Masa) survey in July indicated that Muhyiddin enjoys strong approval ratings among respondents in two key areas: leadership performance satisfaction and preferred prime minister candidate."

Meanwhile, Bersatu's youth wing has urged the party to take action against Saifuddin over his attack on Muhyiddin.

Its information chief, Harris Idaham Rashid, said such an open attack revealed the intentions and motives behind it.