

**Respond To Accusations Immediately, Dr Chandra Muzaffar Tells Umno Leaders
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Umno leaders must respond to issues and accusations immediately in order to avoid confusion among the people, 1Malaysia Foundation chairman Dr Chandra Muzaffar said Saturday.

Dr Chandra, who is also Professor of Global Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia, said remaining silent over allegations is not the right thing to do in a country where the people are vulnerable to lies and deception.

It is wrong to assume that the people will not believe baseless and extreme allegations, he said when replying to a question from the floor at the National Seminar on Understanding Wasatiyyah and 1Malaysia at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Many such allegations went unanswered in the 2008 general election and it cost the Barisan Nasional, he said.

"If something has happened, we must be honest about it. We must acknowledge that such a thing has taken place, apologise and rectify the matter. If it is a baseless allegation, we must respond straightaway," he said.

Dr Chandra slammed two-faced leaders, saying such people would only destroy the plural society in the country.

"We cannot accept leaders who change like a chameleon switches colour, championing the cause of Malays at one time and that of the other races at other times.

"We have to hold steadfastly to the Wasatiyyah concept of politics of balance. By doing so, we will be able to uphold our record in the eyes of the world," he said.

Commenting on the "Malaysian Malaysia" concept once advocated by the DAP, Dr Chandra said it was contrary to the Wasatiyyah concept because it was a one-sided and superficial idea which marginalised the history and political background of the country.

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