

For Umno delegates, DAP a 'real threat' to Malay platform
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 — The fear of Malays losing their power and privileges has become a conspicuous concern for Umno leaders, who have singled out the DAP as being the “culprits” of the erosion of such rights.

Attacks against the opposition party have become a focal point of this year’s Umno general assembly here as delegates have accused DAP leaders of marginalising Malays in Pakatan Rakyat states and challenging the sanctity of Islam as the country’s “official religion”.

While some have dismissed renewed attacks against the DAP as mere “Pakatan bashing,” some Umno leaders have insisted that the DAP poses a “real threat” to Malays, and that a future with the DAP in power would mean disaster for the community.

“The party (Umno) is a platform. Our main concern is the future of Malays and Islam.

“This goes beyond political differences between PAS, PKR. Malays have a right to be worried, the position of Malays and our religion has been challenged subliminally and one day before we realise it, it will be too late to do anything,” said Umno delegate Abdul Rahim Kamarudin.

Abdul Rahim, who is Gombak Umno division chief, told The Malaysian Insider that “Malays will be ruined” if Pakatan Rakyat takes over the federal government, claiming that the PKR and PAS would be subservient to the DAP.

Using Singapore as an example, he said many Umno leaders were concerned that Penang, under DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, would one day seek to become a republic, with a different set of rules and governance.

“Look at what happened to Singapore when it was separated from us, there is a real fear that what happened then can spread to other states, like Penang. Look at how Singapore Malays are being treated now ... Comparing both states, do you believe it’s impossible that Penang is heading that way?” said Abdul Rahim.

“It’s not like Umno is against a non-Malay taking the helm of leadership, look at Gerakan. It was in control of Penang.

“But the difference is that Gerakan was never the dominant party in Barisan Nasional. Umno was and is so we could ensure that Malay rights were respected... but with Pakatan Rakyat, DAP is emerging as the dominant party. Where does that leave the Malays?” he asked.

The Umno leader likened the DAP as the main thorn in PR, saying that if the DAP was “taken out of the equation” there would be less problems with discussions between PAS, PKR and Umno.

“DAP is the problem. If you take them out, what’s so impossible with unity talks with PAS, PKR?

“Take Selangor as an example. If PAS and Umno had joined forces we could have formed a

government that will guarantee Malay rights, without the need for DAP," said Abdul Rahim.

He claimed that PAS and PKR were "afraid" of losing power by abandoning the DAP, and that PAS even had to compromise its party principles to appease the DAP.

"You will never have an Islamic state with DAP pulling your strings. In Selangor, why is there now an issue of Malays supposedly attending events in churches? During Umno's time there, this never happened," said Abdul Rahim, referring to the controversy surrounding the raid on the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in Petaling Jaya by the Selangor Islamic Department (Jais).

"It's okay. Let them call us racists, our agenda is to defend Malay rights. If we don't do it, who will?" he said.

Bandar Tun Razak Umno division chief Rizalman Datuk Mokhtar said the path towards Malay unity was still "attainable", and that Umno, PAS, PKR needed to look past politics and realise the real "culprit" preventing intra-party talks was the DAP.

"This year's assembly is a message for Malays in PAS and PKR. There is still room for talks, they need to wake up and see that they are being used by DAP," he told The Malaysian Insider.

Earlier today, Penang Umno delegate Datuk Musa Sheikh Fadzir said he was confident that Malay support in the state was returning to Umno after living under DAP rule since Election 2008.

"Malays are now returning to Umno, they know what its like under DAP. We won most of the seats we contested in 2008, we can do better, we will deliver a victory," he told delegates at the assembly.

Umno has also claimed that the DAP will push for a non-Malay prime minister if Pakatan Rakyat comes to power.

Pasir Salak Umno division chief Datuk Tajuddin Abdul Rahman said that if the Chinese-dominated DAP fails in its bid, it would then resort to appointing a "puppet PM", much like former Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin.

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