

Resume unity talks, Umno leader tells PAS
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 — An Umno supreme council leader today urged PAS to resume unity talks with his party, claiming this was necessary for the continuity of Malay rights in the future.

Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin said Umno was always open to discussions with “any parties” to find ways to safeguard Malay rights and privileges, claiming that the DAP posed a threat to the future of Malays.

Like many other Umno delegates at this year’s annual assembly, Bung Mokhtar (picture) accused the DAP of questioning Malay racial and religious rights,

“We (Umno) are flexible, pragmatic. It is better for PAS to discuss for the future of our race,” he told reporters here.

“Umno is always open, to take any party and work together to calm things down, we do not want this problem (racial strife) to go on. We don’t want the country to suffer,” he said.

The Kinabatangan MP said the DAP should stop questioning Malay rights and the position of Islam in the country, saying that “Malays feel that this land is ‘Tanah Melayu’ and therefore they respond (to DAP).”

“This is Malaysia, we have to respect the constitution,” added Bung Mokhtar.

Umno has in the past extended invites for PAS to sit down to discuss shared interests. PAS has however rejected Umno’s overtures.

Another Umno leader, Pasir Gudang MP Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin, admitted yesterday his party viewed the DAP as its biggest threat in the next general election, but he confidently predicted that PKR and PAS could be beaten.

The federal minister reasoned that this was why delegates had focused their attacks on the DAP when speaking about Pakatan Rakyat (PR) throughout the Umno annual general assembly so far.

Attacks against the opposition party have served as a focal point for this year’s Umno assembly, with delegates accusing DAP leaders of marginalising Malays in PR 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 spell disaster for the community.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/resume-unity-talks-umno-leader-tells-pas/>