

**PAS tells Malays to care more about graft**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**August 21, 2011**  
**By Boo Su-Lyn**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 — PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu has urged Malays to lose their apathy over corruption and mismanagement of funds, telling them last night to be more like the Chinese in keeping discipline.

Mohamad, who is popularly known as Mat Sabu, lamented that Malays were more riled up over racial issues instead.

“Muslims are not sensitive to issues of wastage and corruption, compared to the Chinese,” said Mohamad in a ceramah at Kg Pandan here.

“Why are Malays insensitive? This is our problem,” he added.

He pointed out that the Malays stayed silent during Malaysia’s huge banking scandal in 1983, where Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF), a unit of Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd, reportedly lost as much as US\$1 billion that had been siphoned off by prominent public figures into private bank accounts.

But Mohamad said the Chinese, in comparison, swung to the opposition during the 1986 general elections when former MCA president Tan Koon Swan was imprisoned in Singapore for abetting criminal breach of trust involving Pan-Electric Industries, a Singapore-based conglomerate with a market capitalisation worth S\$230 million.

It collapsed in 1985 and forced both the Singapore and Malaysian stock exchanges to shut down for three days.

The PAS No. 2 also cited Tan’s deposit-taking cooperatives (DTC) scandal in 1986, where half a million Malaysians — mostly working-class Chinese — reportedly lost savings of RM1.5 billion.

“In the 1986 elections, the Chinese — including MCA members — did not vote for MCA. They voted for the opposition until DAP won 24 seats,” said Mohamad.

“When we Malays talk about Bank Bumi losing RM2.5 billion then, we just grin,” he added.

Mohamad stressed that corruption caused suffering, citing his experience with government doctors to treat a knee injury sustained during the July 9 Bersih rally.

He said they told him that they could only see him on July 21 due to a shortage of doctors.

“When government funds are lost, they (Malays) lose their rights. When government funds are lost, we suffer the consequences,” said the popular grassroots leader.

He also urged the small crowd to spread the word on PAS’s anti-price hike campaign called Protes BN when they return to their hometowns during Hari Raya ahead of coming polls.

The flyers depict the Barisan Nasional (BN)’s lavish lifestyle at the cost of public money.

One of them shows a caricature of a man, supposed to be Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, tipping over with his little finger a domino block marked as "petrol" on the side to touch the next block marked "sugar" and with a number of other blocks in a close arrangement.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/pas-tells-malays-to-care-more-about-graft/>