

Umno Need To Go On The Offensive, Not Just Defend Itself
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Many negative issues were raised against Umno and the Barisan Nasional government (BN) by the opposition after the 12th general election in 2008.

The issues not only involved Kedah, Perak, Penang and Selangor which used to be under BN but also touched on personal matters concerning the Prime Minister.

The latest, the government was attacked over the National Feedlot Centre (NFC). However, the accusation had been answered by its executive chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail.

Seeing the incessant attacks of the opposition media against the BN government, many are asking for how long are Umno and BN going to remain passive.

On many occasions, the attacks of the opposition were not based on facts. Quite a number of stories were concocted, as if just because they were opposition supporters they had the right to slander.

This scribe has been asked often if it is wrong for BN to also attack the opposition, but based on facts, so the opposition gets its just deserts.

They say a good defence is offence. This strategy is much used in various aspects of life including sports.

This should be used as a method to face an open political war not only in the print and electronic media but also news portals, facebook and Twitter. Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when launching the first 1Malaysia Social Media Convention on Sunday said Umno must go on the offensive.

"We will lose by default if we don't have the guts to attack the opposition.

Don't treat the social media lightly. This is your responsibility to fight and correct falsehood," he said.

The message from the Prime Minister is not meant only for the new media and social media practitioners but also all Umno members.

This was strengthened by the statement of Umno Information chief Datuk Ahmad Mazlan who said the president's special message to the youth and putri wings also touched on strategies to retain the states currently in hand and to recapture those lost to the opposition.

On this issue, Selangor opposition chief Datuk Satim Diman said attacks would be continued

on the state government which ruled since March 2008 for its lies and broken promises.

He said the attacks on the Selangor state government would be based on issues which were arranged systematically and no mere rhetorics.

"We will not stop. There there are many more issues which we will raise. Until there is a general election, we will continue to attack," he said.

Satim said existing media practitioners also need to play a role to highlight truth and display one by one the weaknesses of those attacking Umno and BN.

He said UMNO and BN currently had many members and supporters well-versed in IT and capable of arguing based on facts. They should come forward to silence the opposition, in accordance with the law.

Currently, one interesting aspect that one wants to see after the Umno general assembly is whether Umno will remain on the defensive or go on the offensive.

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