

Tengku Adnan: Umno 'never' bought votes
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By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 — Umno “has never” and “does not need” to buy votes during elections, party secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said today while denying a recent allegation by a former federal minister.

Tengku Adnan added that as an Umno man himself, former information minister Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir should not be issuing statements that could tarnish the party's reputation.

“If he (Abdul Kadir) feels Umno is not right, why hasn't he left the party?” Tengku Adnan was quoted as saying by Bernama Online here.

He said that the party's disciplinary board is currently investigating if Abdul Kadir had indeed alleged in January that Barisan Nasional (BN) had bought votes in the Kulim-Bandar Baharu parliamentary constituency during past elections.

Tengku Adnan added that Abdul Kadir may face disciplinary action if the statements could be linked directly to him.

Abdul Kadir made headlines in January when he accused the ruling party of handing out between RM200 and RM1,000 to individual voters in previous elections.

In his statement, however, he had stressed that he had not personally employed such a strategy, known as “bomb”.

Earlier this week, Abdul Kadir, who is currently the deputy president for the bipartisan Angkatan Amanah Merdeka (AMANAH) group, flayed media organisations for purportedly twisting his words at the time.

The 73-year-old political veteran did not retract his controversial statement but denied he had included Kulim-Bandar Baharu in the widely published accusation.

“I have said that the use of money to buy votes did occur since 40 years ago.

“But in Kulim, which I represented for 30 years, we have never and have never needed to buy votes, whether during party polls or the general election,” he had told a press conference.

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