

Ex-mufti Asri urges Umno ulamas to speak out against political violence
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By Md Izwan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 — Former Perlis Mufti Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin has criticised the young ulamas or religious scholars in Umno for being silent on the culture of political thuggery, saying that they should not just toe the party line.

He cited as proof of the culture of political violence and a breakdown in decent behaviour the attack on PKR's pre-election tour bus, the recent incident where a student exposed himself at photographs of political leaders, and the alleged throwing of shoes into a mosque by Malay right-wing group Perkasa.

"Political differences no longer bring a battle of minds and an offer of better administration, but the contrary is happening," Asri (picture) said on his official website www.drmaza.com.

He advised young ulamas in political parties to state their stand and not just follow their party's wishes.

"Yesterday (I) met a few Umno leaders, they said please help tell the young ustaz (religious teachers) who join Umno not to be sycophants. We don't like (that) too. (Semalam jumpa beberapa tokoh Umno, mereka kata tolong beritahu ustaz-ustaz muda yang masuk Umno tu jangan terlalu mengampu. Kami pun tak suka.)," Asri wrote on the microblogging site Twitter.

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