

We are strong but will not challenge Umno, says Perkasa chief
Malaysian Insider
May 17, 2014
By Diyana Ibrahim

Despite being active in recruiting new members, Malay rights group Perkasa said it has no intention of challenging Umno.

Its president Datuk Ibrahim Ali , however, warned that Perkasa should not be taken lightly as it now boasts more than 500,000 members.

"Perkasa is planning to organise committee meetings at state level soon," Ibrahim said.

"All this time, people have taken Perkasa lightly, saying nobody wants to join the group."

Ibrahim claimed his organisation has 13,500 leaders at every district, and some half-a-million general members.

"We have no intention of challenging Umno. With the membership at its current level, we can hold meetings at state level, similar to PAS and Umno," he told The Malaysian Insider after officiating a course on "warriorship" for Perkasa members.

At the same function today, former Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Sanusi Junid advised Perkasa members to ignore criticisms.

"Do not feel low as you should be proud. Ignore the external criticisms," said Sanusi, adding that Perkasa's struggle in defending the Bumiputeras and Malays was in line with the Federal Constitution.

"There is nothing that Perkasa has done which is illegal as everything has been in line with the law, including the validity of your organisation," Sanusi said.

"As a legitimate organisation, you should fight for what is enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

"Whatever the criticisms may be, Perkasa is merely defending the Federal Constitution and the Rukun Negara," the former Kedah menteri besar added. Meanwhile, Ibrahim, when asked whether Perkasa was now taking over Umno's role in voicing out Malay concerns, said, "We are committed to our struggle.

"I do not want to get involved in politics and Umno, let it be. We are now a stronger organisation with the increasing number of members." – May 17, 2014.

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