

Najib's call for Umno to emulate militants blow to democracy, diplomatic ties, says Pakatan

Malaysian Insider

June 25, 2014

By Amin Iskandar

By calling on Umno members to be as brave as a Middle Eastern militant group, Datuk Seri Najib Razak has rejected democracy and has destroyed diplomatic relations between Malaysia and other countries, said Pakatan Rakyat leaders today.

The prime minister's statement, noted PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, has tainted the democracy system in the country, while also ruining his dignity as a leader of the state.

"No wonder he did not say anything when several Umno members intruded the Penang state assembly last month," Mohamad told The Malaysian Insider.

He was referring to the May 20 intrusion of the Penang state assembly, when a group, believed to be Penang Umno members, stormed into the House looking for Seri Delima assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer, who had uttered the words "Umno celaka" (Umno be damned) during proceedings.

"As an Umno president, how can Najib come up with such statements asking his members to be like Middle Eastern militant groups? This should not have come out from his mouth."

Mohamad, who is also known as Mat Sabu, said Najib's statement would also encourage groups such as Perkasa, who yesterday suggested that those who went against the Sultan's wishes or made comments against Islam should be beheaded, to fester.

At a dinner to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Cheras Umno branch last night, Najib said party members should emulate the exploits of the group calling itself the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isil) as they were able to defeat an Iraqi force although they were outnumbered.

"Whether we agree or not is another matter, the group Isil with the strength of just 1,300 people, can defeat an Iraqi army of 30,000 soldiers, until four, five generals with three, four stars ran for their lives, jumped out the window at night," the prime minister was quoted as saying.

PKR vice-president Tian Chua said as prime minister, Najib should not have come up with statements that could ruin diplomatic relations with other countries.

"Isil or Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (Isis) attacked Iraq. How could Najib say something that could hurt Iraq, which had diplomatic relations with Malaysia," the Batu MP questioned.

"His remarks are worrying and shows his ignorance in international politics."

DAP national organising secretary Anthony Loke said Najib's statement yesterday would only act as an encouragement towards more extremism in the biggest Malay party in the country.

"How could Najib have picked Isil as an example? As a prime minister, this was one of his worst messages.

"It also contradicts the concept of moderation that was introduced by his administration," the Seremban MP said.

Loke also asked all parties to reject Najib's statement that will affect Malaysia's image as a moderate country and which is also against terrorism.

"Even yesterday, Perkasa said it would behead those who betrayed the Selangor Sultan. So after this, it will be worse," he said.

Isil, a splinter group of al-Qaeda, wants to set up an Islamic caliphate encompassing both Iraq and Syria and has been classified as a terror organisation.

Malaysians are said to be linked to the group. Malaysian Ahmad Tarmimi Maliki, 26, was believed to have been the suicide bomber who killed 25 Iraqi policemen last month while police in Malaysia arrested three local men, believed to be members of the group, earlier this month.

Utusan Malaysia had reported last month that Ahmad, a factory worker from Selangor, had joined the group without his family's knowledge and was given the name Abu Ahmad Al-Malizzi by Isil.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had recently warned that Malaysians who join the militants in Syria will be dealt with under the law if they return to Malaysia.

He said the ministry was now monitoring the movements of Malaysians in Syria and would take stiff action if they are involved in any militant activities in the Middle East. – June 24, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/najibs-call-for-umno-to-emulate-militants-major-blow-to-democracy-diplomati>