

Ariff Sabri: Najib's status and bloodline irrelevant
Free Malaysia Today
May 1, 2015

The Raub MP says Najib's 'Bugis' rant exposes his Third World mentality.

PETALING JAYA: When Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak fell back on his Bugis lineage in his attempt to gain acceptance, he was displaying an attribute associated with leaders of backward societies and exposing his Third World mentality, according to Raub MP Ariff Sabri.

In his latest blog entry, Ariff gives a short lesson on the sociological theory that distinguishes “ascriptive values” from “achievement values”.

Backward societies and “capacity-challenged” leaders like Najib, he says, subscribe to ascriptive values. They will find “excuses and recourse by referring to their lineage and heritage”.

He associates “achievement values” with “progressive and expandable” societies. These values, he explains, are “voluntarily acquired and cultivated and used as driving engines towards forwardness”.

“Progressive peoples and progressive societies know that the way forward depends on the efforts voluntarily and actively put in. It does not depend on reliance of passive lineage and the distant past.”

Ariff observes that Najib has more than once exhibited the trait of someone subscribing to ascriptive values, as when affirming that he is the son of the late Tun Razak, “as though that is enough to assure success in what he was about to do”.

In a further explanation of the two sets of values, Ariff compares the typical responses of the Malays and Chinese when faced with a reduction in real income with the introduction of the GST.

“The Malay says, ‘No worries. I am Malay and I am entitled to BR1M and other welfare assistance.’ The Chinese will respond, ‘No worries. Last time I fried two plates of char koay teow. Now I fry four.’

“The Malay offers a way out by pointing out to who he is. The Chinese offers a way out by increasing his contribution.”

Ariff says the typical Malay response “defines” who he is and “dooms” him to the state he is in. “If he were not a son of Tun Razak, he cannot offer and guarantee success. If he were not a Bugis, he cannot succeed.”

The typical Chinese response shows a dependence on “acquired traits”, which are “learnable” and “expandable” and capable of “producing possibilities”.

Ariff calls on Malays to get out of such a rut.

“Abandon the leader who teaches that the way out depends on your lineage and your inherited status,” he says. “Dr Mahathir has already cut the fallacy open. The fact that Najib is the son of Tun Razak did not prevent him from failing on so many fronts.

“Your status and bloodline are irrelevant. What you can do is more important.”

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2015/05/01/ariff-sabri-najibs-status-and-bloodline-irrelevant/>