

Ahmad Maslan gets boos, warning from Pontian Umno
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By Md Izwan

Controversial Umno deputy minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan was booed thrice by delegates from his own Pontian division today during the annual general meeting.

The Pontian MP, who has often courted ridicule for his comments on the goods and services tax (GST) and his unyielding support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, was treated to a volley of jeers each time his name was mentioned in the meeting.

The hostile reception forced Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was officiating the meeting, to pause during his speech and remind delegates not to insult their own representative.

"Don't boo him, he is your deputy division chief," said Muhyiddin, after delegates jeered when he congratulated Ahmad for surviving the Cabinet reshuffle.

Pontian Umno division chief, Datuk Hasni Mohammad also openly took a dig at Ahmad during today's meeting.

"Umno is not a yes-man party," said Hasni, earning cheers from the delegates.

Throughout the meeting today, Ahmad appeared uneasy, his facial expression changing each time the delegates booed him.

He skipped the tea session with Muhyiddin later in the evening, and left the event as soon as the meeting ended.

The treatment he received contrasted starkly with the warm welcome delegates gave to Muhyiddin.

Cheers, applause, and cries of "long live Muhyiddin" echoed through the hall as soon as the former deputy prime minister made his appearance.

Muhyiddin had previously mocked Ahmad for the latter's statement that "tomorrow is not election day", calling it an "international joke."

Meanwhile, Hasni told delegates that Umno was now facing its greatest challenge, with the people losing trust in the party following the scandals dogging the government, from the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal to the GST.

"This is all a result of the issues as of late, whether it's 1MDB, the RM2.6 billion, the Low Yat brawl, the sale of Mara assets, Felda, GST and whatnot, this has resulted in the people losing confidence," said Hasni.

On August 2, Utusan Malaysia cautioned Ahmad to stop stirring up controversy with his statements now that he was deputy international trade and industry minister.

Ahmad has courted scorn and ridicule on the Internet over his attempts to explain to the public how the unpopular GST worked.

His advice to undergraduates to cook their own food to avoid GST, his GST-free fried rice recipes shared over Twitter, and the confusion over GST on mobile prepaid cards had irked many Malaysians.

He also addressed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed's criticism of GST by calling the former prime minister an "old man" who must learn more about the new tax system.

Many dubbed Ahmad "CGPA 3.85", after he wrote on Twitter that he was not so stupid as he had earned a 3.85 CGPA from his Master of Business Administration in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The public outcry against Ahmad prompted him to declare that he was "the most hated person in Malaysia because of GST" during a speech in Kuala Lumpur on May 13. – August 16, 2015.

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