

'Malays tolerant for too long'

The Sun - 17/11/2006

UMNO and the Malays can no longer be passive and defensive towards groups which question the special privileges of the Malays, Islam as the official religion and the syariah court's position as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

Malacca delegate Hasnoor Sidang Hussein said the time had come for party members as well as the Malays to firmly act against

those who undermined the social contract which had been agreed upon since Independence.

"The tolerant attitude of the Malays towards groups which dared to challenge the rights of the Malays and Islam's sanctity prompted the latter to be even bolder as they felt no action would be taken against them," he said when debating the president's keynote address.

He said the Malays had been

passive far too long and tolerated attempts by certain non-Muslim groups to dispute the rights of the Malays and tarnish Islam's image.

"Since the tragic racial riots in 1969, Umno and the Malays have been too patient, and tolerant.

An example of their blatant disregard for Malays' sensitivity was when cases which should be heard in the syariah court were instead brought before the civil court, and

worse, they even proposed the setting up of a religious advisory council, putting Islam on par with other religions in the nation's constitution, he said.

He also thanked the prime minister for his firm action by rejecting the proposed council and issuing a stern warning against anyone who attempted to incite religious and racial sentiments.

He also ticked off some

professional Malay groups which collaborated with these groups in the name of social justice and liberalism and urged them to repent.

As such, he said, Umno members should stand solidly behind the party president and other Umno leaders as Umno is the only party which continues to fight for the rights of the Malays and Islam since the party's inception. -
Bernama