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Abdullah should stay on

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EVER SINCE the general election, there have been calls and challenges by Umno members for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to step down as party president and with it his position as prime minister.

Is this the birth of something new from Umno? Or have they so matured? This has never happened before. Even when a former president wanted to quit, there were appeals and cries of support for him to continue. Some cried openly like there was nobody who could take his place. But suddenly today there seemed many who want

to take over the hot seat. Some Supreme Council members of the party openly criticise and even demand that the incumbent president vacate his post immediately. Hey presto! And Umno will be united and strong. That is what the aspiring members say. Wow! Houdinis or David Copperfields exist in Umno. Never knew that.

Maybe, the Umno president should call for the resignation of these "mushroom" hopefuls. Where were they and what were they doing since the 2004 elections? Didn't they live and rest on their laurels after the handsome

win? It was that big victory that created egoistic and arrogant winners among the members. With that attitude, they took the rakyat for granted. Never in their wildest dream did they imagine they would lose so badly. What happened to the Houdinis and David Copperfields?

Aren't these the same group of people who now boast they can change Umno's fortune?

I would like to urge Abdullah not to succumb to these pressures but to continue the good work that he has done and to cast aside dissenting voices and demands for his resignation.

A ship captain doesn't abandon ship when it is sinking but is the last to jump. Let the crew jump ship and it probably will make the ship lighter and easier to float while repairs are being done to remedy the situation. That is what Pak Lah should do. Let the disloyal members leave; thus a big headache is cast off.

This action will help consolidate his position. There is no reason to fear a chain reaction. Those who jump ship can be termed as jumping from the tiger's den into a crocodile's

territory. If at all, this will create a slide in support, it will augur well among the masses and Pak Lah's honour and dignity will remain intact.

My concern is not so much what will happen to Umno but what will happen to Malaysia. Now, Umno with other Barisan Nasional parties administer the country and Umno holds the hottest seat - the prime ministership.

Without support from the other BN parties, Umno members would be biting their fingers. Together, these BN parties delivered 140 seats in Parliament. A simple majority but enough to run the government. There may be tough situations in Parliament but it is to be expected.

Frontbenchers and backbenchers must allow room for dissent and disagreements even though. Be attentive and accommodative. Show cooperation and coordination because the usual arrogance and unparliamentary attitude and gestures are now things of the past. Tolerance and patience from both sides will create a healthy debate and save time and ef-

fort which will translate into quality results.

P a k a t a n
Rakyat under Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as Madam Opposition should also set exemplary standards of parliamentaryship and not oppose for the sake of it. Both BN and PR can demonstrate cooperation by practising respect and goodwill in or out of Parliament.

Parliament is not a place to seek vengeance. It is a constitutional monument of decorum and dignity. People who cannot meet the requisites of an MP should stay in coffeeshops instead.

If all Umno and BN party members keep calling for Pak Lah to quit, it only goes to show they are not interested in the nation's

Live and let live

HEY! HEY! Tun Mahathir or should I say Che Det

Malaysians are all asking, "Why you so like that"

At 83 and after 22 years, it's time you should retire

Instead we find you coming out with brimstone, venom and fire
Your harsh comments about the PM we find rather strange

After all you selected him and now you want a regime change
If you are unhappy with him, your advice you can give

But please do it in a way that says live and let live
So please cease and desist, give us all a break

Not so much for me but for my children's children sake
I have no political affiliation and belong to no party

But all I have is my beloved God and King and this beautiful country!

J. Toh
Kuala Lumpur

and
the rakyat's wellbeing but only theirs. And these sort of people Malaysia does not need. Maybe they want Pak Lah to use brooms to sweep them out.

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