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Umno-By-election

BY-ELECTIONS: UMNO YOUTH TO ADOPT POLLING AREAS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth wants to "adopt" polling areas in upcoming by-elections to ensure closer rapport with the electorate, its leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today.

The by-elections already declared are for the Teluk Intan and the Kuala Selangor parliamentary seats and the Repah and Permatang state seats.

"Adopting a polling area in past elections had led to our success," he told reporters after chairing the movement's special meeting to usher in Umno's 51st anniversary on Sunday.

He would soon direct Umno youth leaders in the states involved to implement the adoption exercise and for this purpose proposed that they stay in those constituencies to coordinate various activities.

The movement was already prepared for supportive roles in helping in campaigning by state Umno liaison committees for the by-elections, he said.

On Umno's 51st anniversary, he said prime minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to deliver a key-note address at a premier forum on the party's history organised by the movement.

Between 800 and 1,000 party members were expected to attend the forum, including Umno supreme council members, Wanita Umno exco members, state and divisional heads.

Forum panel members are veteran journalist Tan Sri Abdul Samad Ismail, former Umno secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Jabar and Associate Prof Mahathir Mohd Kadir.

They would discuss Umno's course and approach for the next decade and in the new millennium, Ahmad Zahid said.

Today's meeting also discussed the Barisan Nasional Youth convention to be held in Miri on July 6 which would dwell on the creation of a meritocratic society, among other things.-- BERNAMA

AMH AR RN