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Najib-Umno

SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES, UMNO MEMBERS TOLD

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today called on Umno members to bury their hatchet and close ranks to ensure a thumping victory for the Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

In gearing up for the election, Umno members at grassroots level must respect and cooperate with their elected leaders, he said.

"The leaders must also be fair to all party members under their charge," he told reporters after launching the Kelantan Umno Youth and Wanita election machinery, here.

He said Umno members should not have other agendas besides their resolve to enhance unity and work as a team to pursue Umno's struggles.

"Displaying loyalty to the party leadership by accepting its decisions and actions will ensure success of Umno's struggles," said Najib, who is Education Minister.

In PASIR MAS, another vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said unity among Umno members was utmost important particularly at a time when the country was facing economic problems.

He said Umno's unity and stability would enhance the effectiveness of the government's efforts to rejuvenate the economy, he said.

" Thank God, people are supporting the efforts made by BN leaders," he told reporters after launching election activities of the Pasir Mas BN election machinery here today.

Efforts to revive the economy led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had received the people's blessings as evident from the support for him to continue to lead the country, said Abdullah, who is Foreign Minister.

He also denied that there was a rift between party leaders, saying such speculations were made by opposition leaders who took advantage of the country's economic problems for their political interests.

He said opposition leaders were only good at criticising the government but they would not complement the government's efforts to revive the economy quickly to ease the people's hardship.

Abdullah, however, said Malaysia is still the top preference among foreign investors who are confident that the country could overcome its economic problems through its own corrective measures.

To prove his point, he said, of the 471 investment applications approved from January to July this year, 214 applications were from foreign investors with investments worth RM5.76 bilion, he added.

In JELI, Umno supreme council member Datuk Shafie Apdal urged Umno members not to jostle for posts to amass wealth to the extent of causing a split in the party.

He also expressed confidence that Umno would wrest Kelantan from PAS in the next election.

-- BERNAMA

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