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Umno-Zahid

STRESS ON CONSOLIDATING UMNO, ZAHID TELLS PARTY LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- Former Umno Youth head Datuk Zahid Hamidi has called on Umno leaders, especially at the divisional level, to strive to consolidate the party to face the next general election.

He said the leaders would gain nothing from concentrating on their own positions if the party lost in the election.

"I wish to suggest to the leaders at the grassroots to give more attention to their respective areas," he said when commenting on the policy speech by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the party's special general assembly here today.

Zahid, who attended the assembly as an ordinary delegate, supported Dr Mahathir's call to Umno members to give priority to party interests over self-interest.

In this context, he said, leaders at all levels should return to the grassroots and allay the confusion caused by recent events so as to avoid any split in the party.

Zahid was referring to the issue if Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's removal from the party and government in early September.

He expressed confidence that the party would be able to maintain its unity despite Anwar's removal.

Although Umno suffered a split when Datuk Onn Jaafar left it to form a new party, it remained intact because members were loyal and gave priority to Umno's interests, he said.

"The event did not bring down Umno," said Zahid.

"What the party president has said is true and should be well received by members at the grassroots," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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