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Johor Umno to adopt 'friendly approach'

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - Johor Umno's work agenda for the rest of the year is aimed at strengthening unity and making it "friendly" to all Malays, among other things.

Its liaison committee meeting last night also agreed to enhance solidarity.

Johor Umno chief and Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the work agenda would be implemented at the State, divisional and branch-levels.

"This is to ensure that Johor Umno will continue to thrive, whether in politics or in its involvement in social, religious and educational matters."

Abdul Ghani was speaking to reporters after chairing the Johor Umno liaison committee meeting at its headquarters here which lasted three hours last night.

This was Johor Umno's first meeting since party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced on June 30 the appointments of Abdul Ghani as Johor Umno chief and party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as the deputy.

On steps to make Johor Umno friendly to all Malays, Abdul Ghani said these would include understanding their aspirations.

"This is to make Umno a party that truly struggles for the Malays, and for Umno to continue its agenda for the Malays."

Abdul Ghani said there would also be a post-mortem of last November's general election, whereby results at the various polling centres would be analysed.

"The 20 divisions will revive their committees on ballot boxes to evaluate (the voting trends in the various polling centres).

"While we registered 100 per cent success in the last general election, we cannot afford to be complacent."

Abdul Ghani also announced that this year's Johor Umno convention would be held in Batu Pahat on Sept 9.

Party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to open the convention.

In conjunction with the convention, a dinner will be held in honour of Johor candidates who won party posts in the May Umno elections.

At last night's meeting, Johor Umno reappointed Tebrau Member of Parliament Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan as secretary, State Assembly Speaker Datuk Zainalabidin Zin as treasurer and Deputy Works Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin as information chief.

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