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Keadilan Deputy Youth chief of Kedah rejoins Umno

ALOR STAR, Fri. - Kedah Keadilan vice Youth chief Zuraidi Rahim and 14 of its youth branch leaders have defected to Umno.

Zuraidi, 29, who is also national Keadilan exco member, said he and his group no longer believed in Keadilan. Only Umno's struggle was real in uniting the Malays.

He said many of those who left Umno to join Keadilan had begun to realise their mistake. It was only a matter of time before they returned to Umno.

The group of 15 met Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to express support to Umno, when he arrived at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Kepala Batas near here today.

The Prime Minister, who made a day-long visit to the State, said the defection was a good sign as the group now realised the truth about the goings-on in the country.

Speaking to reporters later, Zuraidi said his decision to leave Keadilan was also personal as he could no longer support Keadilan Youth leader Mohd Ezam Mohd Noor.

"In fact, I was with the Youth chief in Indonesia before Keadilan was formed.

"But I could no longer believe in the party and could not accept the actions of the Keadilan Youth chief," he said, but refused to elaborate when pressed for details.

At a Press conference after attending a gathering with residents of Taman Desa Damai in Jitra later, Dr Mahathir said many supporters of the Opposition parties, especially Keadilan, were confident of Umno's struggles.

He said many wanted to leave Keadilan because they felt they had been cheated by their leaders and out of frustration.

"They had listened to the explanation by Umno members and they now believe in the truth," he said, adding that one should not join Umno for purposes other than taking part in its struggle.

Asked whether such development would cripple Keadilan's activities, Dr Mahathir said he did not know.

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