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MB: Unity is the key to Umno's future success

UMNO members must close ranks and mend the rift among them to enable the party to continue championing its cause.

They should forgive each other and concentrate on improving the weaknesses that are hindering the party from achieving its objectives.

Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain said Umno was expected to face big challenges ahead, and crisis after crisis would arise, threatening the party.

"Unity is the key to our future success," he said.

Syed Razak, who is also Kedah Umno chief, was delivering his welcoming speech at the opening of the Kedah Umno convention, which was officiated by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Some 700 people, mostly divisional party leaders, attended the two-day convention, which started yesterday.

Likening the situation in the State Umno to a house which was rotting from inside, Syed Razak said the results of the last general election had shown signs of rot.

"Although we won, we lost many seats to the Opposition.

"A strong house, if allowed to rot from inside, will eventually collapse."

Urging party members not to take too long to check mistakes, Syed Razak said the convention was the right move to rebuild a united Umno in Kedah.

Umno lost eight of 15 parliamentary seats and 12 of 36 State seats to Pas in the last polls.

He also urged party members to rebuild the rakyat's confidence in Umno.

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