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Shahrir to be Umno 'postman'

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - Newly-elected Umno supreme council member Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said he would pursue his role as a "postman" for the rakyat seriously.

Attributing his success in the recent party elections to the support from the divisions and branches in Johor, Shahrir reiterated that he would carry out the duties of a "postman" to convey the needs of the people to the supreme council.

"As a representative from Johor, I will begin by visiting the divisions in the State. In fact, I will attempt to cover all divisions stretching from Perlis to Sabah, and from Kelantan to Johor," he said at a thanksgiving dinner at Rumah Barkat in Bukit Cagar here last night.

Organised by the Johor Baru Umno division, the event was also to celebrate the division chief's election to the supreme council.

Shahrir, who has already visited divisions in Segamat and Johor Baru, plans to visit a few more divisions before the supreme council meets on May 25.

He said his return to the council, after a lapse of 13 years, was made possible by the fervent support of the Johor Baru division, which had stood by him through thick and thin.

"I have been in Johor Baru leading the people here and all of you have persevered with me. My success (in the party elections) personifies the struggles and principles held by Johor Umno," he added.

Recalling the events of the recent Umno general assembly, Shahrir said the mood and spirit at the assembly clearly reflected the essence of Malay politics.

He described the assembly as a success for the Malay culture and the Malay community at large.

He also reminded members on the call made by Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, that Umno should in a way operate like the Opposition.

Saying that this was not something new for Johor Umno, Shahrir added:

"We in Johor fully understand what it means to move like the Opposition.

"Like the Opposition, we too must not fight for positions in the party. Unfortunately, many in Umno seek positions to secure contracts and business favours. We must work towards eradicating this image."

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