

09/08/2000

Umno Youth conventions to gauge members' sentiments

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno Youth will organise five State-level conventions to gauge the sentiments and aspirations of its members while gathering feedback from non-party members "to devise an overall strategy to win over the Malays".

Deputy secretary Zulkifli Mohd Alwi said this approach was to enhance the status of the Malays and safeguard their religion, culture and traditions while developing the country.

"Youth members can voice their grouses and opinions in a frank and open manner without being afraid of the consequences."

Speaking at a Press conference today, Zulkifli said: "The convention will provide a formal avenue for our grass roots members to express their feelings and determine the political concept which is acceptable to them.

"It will ensure that the democratic process in Malaysia actually provides an ample platform for society to participate actively in nation-building."

Zulkifli said a "special discussion" would also be held during the conventions among the movement's leaders and those from non-governmental organisations, young professionals, youth leaders, educationists, university graduates, religious personalities and missionaries.

"The feedback gathered during the conventions will be used to devise a strategy to gain the confidence and continued support of the Malays."

The conventions will be held in five zones including Sabah, northern zone (Perlis, Kedah and Penang), central zone (Perak, Selangor and Federal Territory), southern zone (Malacca, Negri Sembilan and Johor) and eastern zone (Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang).

Sabah will begin the convention on Sept 9, followed by northern zone (Sept 16), central zone (Sept 24), southern zone (Oct 1) and eastern zone (Oct 7).

Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib together with secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed will also speak at the conventions.

This will be a prelude to a national convention to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre on a yet-to-be fixed date. It is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Umno president.

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