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Umno-Zainuddin

UMNO'S PERFORMANCE IN POLLS DEPENDS ON MENTERIS BESAR, SAYS ZAM

BUKIT MERAH, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- The performance of the Barisan Nasional and Umno in the next general election depends very much on the menteri besar, Information Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said today.

It does not depend so much on the prime minister and Umno's national leadership as it does on the calibre, behaviour, actions and approach of the menteri besar.

"It's the menteri besar who is closer to the grassroots," he said in a working paper on Umno's image at the Perak Umno Convention here.

Zainuddin said Umno members should not regard what they had done so far as wrong merely because opposition parties thought so.

"Why is it that they suddenly feel that everything they have done is wrong ...is it wrong for Umno to create wealth for the Malays after 44 years of independence," he said.

Zainuddin said Umno members should not be taken in by the opposition who belittle Umno's contributions, especially that of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Dr Mahathir had succeeded in raising the image and competitive spirit of the Malays whereas the opposition was only good at making noises.

"In the past, the West looked down on us and a lot of our people went to Singapore to do their shopping and see skyscrapers.

"But today millions of Muslims from other countries come to Malaysia for jobs and we are among the most advanced Muslim nation," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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