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Umno-Blame

UMNO LEADERS HAVE THEMSELVES TO BLAME, SAYS AZIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Umno leaders only have themselves to blame for the party losing grip over Malay grassroots support, the Bukit Bintang Youth Division Chief, Datuk Abdul Azim Mohd Zabidi said here today.

He said some party leaders, especially at division and branch levels, have been slacking in speech power and failed to equip themselves with essential facts to counter the opposition.

Azim, who is also Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman, was speaking to reporters after participating in a "live" Internet chat session with the public, organised by Umno-Online.

"Although Umno is not a sinking ship, the party is obviously losing grip over its failure to properly channel information to the grassroots.

"Yes, we have to admit things like this. This is the mistake of Umno leaders too. It's not the fault of the people nor the leadership but the fault of Umno leaders who do not go down to the grassroots to explain current issues.

"This has resulted in the erosion of support for Umno," he said.

Azim urged the present line-up of Umno leaders to do their homework and equip themselves with solid facts before embarking on such missions or end up being the laughing stock of the people.

On the "live" Internet chat, he said the questions posed to him were intelligent, from people who were concerned over Umno's future and the party's relevance to the country's political scenario.

The hour-long "live" Internet chat, held at Umno-Online's office in Putra World Trade Centre, began at 3.30 pm.

Azim was the third guest on the Umno-Online "live" chat, after Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to be interviewed online over the "live" chat session, sometime in March.

-- BERNAMA

RBZ AU DVS