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Najib-Members

UMNO RECRUITS OVER 87,000 NEW MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Umno has recruited 87,991 new members after the launch of the party's membership campaign last June 30, said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today.

He said based on the data received from the Umno state liaison committees, this showed an increase of 3.6 per cent in the party membership.

"The response is encouraging...Kedah obtains 21,743 new members or 8.72 per cent followed by Terengganu at 12,359 or 6.69 per cent," he said after launching the Federal Territory-level membership recruitment drive here.

Najib who is also the Umno Membership and Voters Registration Bureau chairman believed similar efforts were being made to increase the number of party members in other states.

He called on each party division to take heed the call by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Supreme Council meeting last Friday to work harder in wooing more people to join the party.

Najib said the Federal Territory Umno showed a recruitment of 6,631 new members including the 4,839 who registered at today's function.

In last July, the Umno Supreme Council directed each of the party division to increase its membership by at least 10 per cent. Umno now has 2.9 million members nationwide.

To a reporter's question on the reason behind the existence of "phantom branches" in several Federal Territory Umno divisions, Najib said it could be due to attempts by certain individuals to strengthen their bids in the party election.

"This issue has received the attention of (Federal Territory) Umno and they are in the midst of updating the membership...we need to stand on reality and not cheat ourselves from the real situation," he said.

He said the problem did not exist nationwide and it was only limited to several branches in the Federal Territory.

Najib said the issue can be dealt with through the existing party system in the State Liaison Committee and can be reported to the Supreme Council.

-- BERNAMA

SHS MUN ZUL