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Bid to undermine Umno's stability

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The on-line opinion poll on who will be the next Prime Minister currently posted on Harakah's daily website has a hidden agenda to undermine Umno's stability.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said it was clear that Harakah, being the mouthpiece of Pas, had run the poll to pit Umno leaders against each other.

"Pas is jealous and afraid as they can see that Umno is getting stronger and more united. They know that the only way to weaken Umno is to split Umno leaders by creating a rift and a feeling of insecurity among us.

"Knowing Pas, they will go to great lengths to split Umno and they hope that the squabbling among the Umno leaders will take place so that they can take advantage of the situation. But, we are not going to fall for this old trick," Muhammad said when asked to comment on the Harakah on-line poll which started on March 8.

The question asked is who they trust to replace Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister.

The result was front-paged in the latest edition of the party newsletter Harakah, headlined "Najib is more trusted to be Prime Minister".

The poll results so far showed Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak obtaining the highest number of votes (39.47 per cent or 2,244 of the 5,686 respondents).

In second place is Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin with 18.01 per cent or 1,024 respondents while 17.41 per cent or 990 respondents chose Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah received 13.37 per cent (760) while another vice-president, Muhammad, received 11.75 per cent (668).

Umno Youth exco member Ab Raof Yusoh said the poll was Pas' propaganda to disunite Umno.

"It's not them who will be choosing the Umno leaders. We are strong because we are united and everyone is behind the party leadership."

Harakah editor Zulkifli Sulong said Umno leaders should look at the on-line opinion poll posted at the Harakahdaily website positively as it was initiated without any bad intention at all.

He said the poll was not aimed at promoting or running down any of the Umno leaders and that the results were fair and had come from those who visit the website.

Zulkifli said it was surprising that whatever was published in Harakah had such an effect on the Umno leaders and members until the party information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamad could accuse Pas of creating confusion in the Umno hierarchy.

"We have always run such polls in our websites and even the Pas leaders are not spared this.

"However, this time around we decided to conduct a poll to let the visitors of the website decide on who they trust to replace the Prime Minister. This is because we can see that there is some form of competition among Umno's top leaders.

"It is interesting to see what the visitors to the website have to say on this matter," he said.

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