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Megat Junid-Umno

MEGAT JUNID TO VISIT ALL UMNO DIVISIONS TO GATHER INFORMATION

KUALA LUMPUR, May 20 (Bernama) -- Newly appointed Umno information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob will visit all the Umno divisions soon to gather the latest information on the party.

He said he had to re-establish ties with the divisions as he had not been politically active for the past two years.

"I will meet all the division information chiefs to get information on the strengths and weaknesses of the party," he told reporters after bidding farewell to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who left for a visit to Japan and South Korea, at the Royal Malaysian Air Force station in Subang, near here.

Megat Junid, who replaced Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as Umno information chief on April 12 this year, said Umno had to put its house in order first before "bothering" about other parties.

"I've retired for two years. I was out of the mainstream of Umno, so I'm a bit rusty. That's why my first move is to visit the states to meet all the divisional information chiefs as soon as possible," he said.

Megat Junid, who was formerly domestic trade and consumer affairs minister, said he proposed to set up a team in Umno to ensure that there was no overlapping of duties and objectives.

He said it was important to strengthen Umno to ensure victory in the next general election.

He said he did not want to see a repeat of the losses that he and religious advisor to the prime minister Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman suffered in Parit and Sik respectively in the 1999 general election despite both parliamentary constituencies having many Umno members.

He said Umno's image now was better than that in 1999 thanks, among others, to Dr Mahathir's role at the domestic and international levels.

On his appointment as Umno information chief, he said: "I myself was surprised by the appointment, not only other people, because I was not in the country and he (Dr Mahathir) had never discussed it with me... I thought of retiring. I wanted to enjoy my retirement."

-- BERNAMA

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