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Khalil-Election

UMNO READY FOR GENERAL ELECTION, SAYS KHALIL

KUALA KANGSAR, April 26 (Bernama) -- Based on preparations made by the party's branches and divisions nationwide, Umno is now ready for the coming general election, said Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

He said the state of readiness was based on reports submitted from the Supreme Council (MT) members, elected representatives, party branches and divisions apart from the regular reports submitted by MT members appointed to monitor developments in certain states.

Khalil said the divisions had stated that they were now ready to face the general election, last held in 1999, even though the current Dewan Rakyat term only expired next year.

"We are prepared but the election date is up to the leadership (to decide)," he said after opening the Kuala Kangsar Umno delegates conference here today.

Khalil said this state of readiness was achieved due to the Umno's intensive programmes held since the last general election including courses and training for members and party campaigners.

He said the people's support for Umno had gradually increased based on the public response at the visits by party leaders especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Our leaders have been given grand welcome including in Kelantan and Terengganu. This is another sign that we are ready," he said.

Khalil said Umno had been growing from strength to strength by staging various programmes and now with the existence of Puteri Umno, had attracted young women to join the party.

"Previously PAS claimed that it had attracted the younger generation and professionals. But it is now under pressure due to the fine performance by Puteri Umno which not only hold political programmes but also education and welfare activities," he said.

Khalil said Umno's move to register more members as voters had received good response and the latest party membership rolls would be on display at the party's general assembly in June.

-- BERNAMA

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