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'Be well-versed with issues to counter Opposition'

BENTONG, Sun. - Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman today urged Umno members to be knowledgeable on issues that the Opposition may choose to manipulate to win support in the next general election.

He said although the Government had repeatedly explained to the people the reasons for certain decisions it had made, the Opposition was still attempting to confuse voters.

"Considering this, all Umno members must be well-versed with these issues. This way, they will have the facts at their finger tips and be able to counter lies and allegations," he said at the opening of the Bentong Umno division meeting here.

Also present was Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is also the Bentong Umno division chief.

Ghani said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had over the years led the Barisan Nasional Government through numerous challenges and made Malaysia known worldwide.

"However, despite these tested and proven formulas, we must not be complacent and take for granted that the people will continuously vote BN.

"We must learn from past mistakes and ensure we leave no stone unturned this time round," he added.

Adnan, in his speech, said it was time for all members to put aside individual interests and look to the greater picture of ensuring a resounding victory for the BN in the next general election.

He praised Umno members who had devoted years to working for the party despite not having been given high positions or any other form of reward.

"These people have dedicated their lives to the party, and it is this kind of dedication and commitment that we want from our younger members as well," he said.

He said all forms of sacrifice, whether big or small, contributed a great deal to the party.

"We must also always remember that we are a multi-racial country and share our power with the other BN component parties.

"Therefore, it is important that in facing a general election we work closely with our fellow members.

"Even Pas has realised that it cannot stand alone and is now cooperating with the other Opposition parties," he said.

Adnan also said Umno members should not forget their principles and should never do anything that could tarnish the party's image.