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Johor Umno's election machinery 'most prepared' to face polls

Zubaidah Abu Bakar

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Johor Umno's election machinery is by far the "most prepared" to face the next general election while the machinery in some States has yet to reach the desired level.

Umno Information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said today some areas in Johor had already started preparations early and their election machinery was in top form.

"Overall, Johor is prepared. But there are certain States which are still not ready," he said but declined to name them.

Megat Junid said the party headquarters had asked all the State Umno liaison committees to ensure dry runs were conducted at various levels to get feedback to test the party election machinery's state of readiness and support from the people.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when issuing the directive to party divisions, Youth, Wanita and Puteri movements after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting in May, however said the directive was no indication that the general election would be very soon.

Megat Junid said although some States had conducted the dry runs, their degree of preparedness should be that desired by the headquarters.

"The headquarters wants to ensure the election preparations by Umno are done properly and comprehensively so that the party machinery can be beefed up while there is still time," he said, adding that reports of the dry runs would help Umno analyse and assess its strength against the Opposition.

Megat Junid said he was given a briefing on Kedah Umno's preparations for the general election three days ago and the impression he got was that State Umno had started working to get feedback on the effectiveness of its machinery.

He said the three party vice-presidents and supreme council members had been given specific areas to monitor.

The party headquarters is also concentrating on setting up the election machinery for the 25 new divisions, created following the re-delineation of the electoral boundaries.

"We will proceed as soon as the respective State Legislative Assemblies approve the new parliamentary areas."