

05/11/2003

## Key to attracting young professionals to Umno

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno leaders must carry out more people-oriented activities to understand problems faced by society to attract young professionals to join the party.

Party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said that some young professionals were interested in joining the party but changed their mind when they saw some Umno leaders being too obsessed with personal gain.

"We must change our approach and attitude if we want to attract more young professionals to the party. We must portray ourselves in a way that will get their interest.

"This includes being more dynamic, creative, adopting an active approach and being more cool to suit the younger generation," he told a Press conference after launching Umno civil action bureau's mobile service centre, near here.

Najib said that many young professionals were interested in contributing to society but did not know the way to do it.

"Through this civil action bureau, we can attract young professionals like lawyers to join us to offer advice and counselling to the public.

"By having a closer relationship with the people, we can also have a better understanding of the problems faced by them and this will assist us when formulating policies for the community."

Najib said the mobile service centre was a good method to approach the people and help them solve their problems.

Meanwhile, Umno civil action bureau head Datuk Azalina Othman Said said that the mobile service centre was established to make it easier for the public to seek advice.

"Some people might find it hard to come to our office to seek advice on how to settle their problems. But through this mobile centre, they may find it easier to contact us."

She said that two lawyers will be stationed at the mobile centre.

"For a start, our operations will be limited to the Federal Territory but we hope to go to the other States in the future," said Azalina.

Azalina added that the civil service action bureau was also a good way for Umno to get closer to the younger generation. She said that a large number of volunteers in the bureau were young professionals.

She said the bureau provided an opportunity for the younger generation to contribute to society, adding that there were young people who regarded politics as "dirty" and did not want to be part of it.

Azalina also said that during the Umno supreme council meeting last Thursday, she had asked the then party president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his advice to the young generation which could serve to motivate them.

"Dr Mahathir wrote to me saying that politics is not dirty, the people in politics are dirty, politics is a honourable thing."