

DPM says next GE to be 'most challenging' for BN

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The 13th general election is expected to be the most challenging that the BN will face, said Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

As such, he warned all BN, particularly Umno, members that they should not treat the next general election like in the past because the parties contesting in the election this time would be most aggressive.

"In the last 16 by-elections, I was leading (the coalition) in more than half. They were very bitter and fierce because of the politicking adopted by the opposition which was no longer like before, while the voters had already made up their mind.

"The people nowadays are making various demands and they must be fulfilled otherwise they will not change their mind," he said when opening the delegates meeting of the Baling Umno division at the Kompleks Rakan Muda in Baling today.

According to Muhyiddin, the BN must make better and thorough preparations to face the next general election although public perception on the BN and Umno particularly had improved.

"We must ask whether after the 13th general election we will still be in power... it will be most painful if we don't have two-thirds majority in Parliament.

"We must make up our mind. Resolve all problems from the bottom upwards.

"There should no longer be any quarrels at the divisional level because our struggles will have a different meaning when we lose and no longer have power," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Umno deputy president, said every Umno member must take the loss during the 12th general election as a lesson.

"I'm thankful that Umno members are now in better and stronger spirit and the change in attitude is good and crucial as we face the next general election," he said.

Also present at the meeting were Baling Umno division head Abdul Azeez Rahim, Baling Wanita Umno head who is also Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Mashitah Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Mohd Johari Baharom and almost 2,000 delegates.

- Bernama