

Disgruntled members urged to return to Umno's fold

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Umno members who feel marginalised or hurt by the party should rise above such feelings and return to the party's fold to help with the ongoing political and government transformation process.

Party vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said their contributions were needed to support Prime Minister and Umno president Najib Razak's push to turn Malaysia into a developed nation of high income.

He said Najib's approach was different from the ones taken by previous leaders and, for this reason, party members who felt marginalised, unwanted or hurt should return to the party.

The same goes for members who had previously been suspended from Umno or even those who had joined the opposition, he told reporters after opening the Alor Setar Umno divisional meeting here today.

"Others may have felt disappointed over not being chosen as election candidates. A study conducted following our experience in Perak in the 2008 general election which saw Umno losing seven seats showed that this was 100 percent due to dissatisfaction among Umno members. Some had even sabotaged the party," he said.

Umno Youth chief without any gov't post

Ahmad Zahid, who is defence minister, said experience would show that a decision made when a person was angry, sad or under pressure would not be an accurate one.

He recalled his own experience of being an Umno Youth chief without any government post.

"In Umno, we need to have resilience and competitiveness. We can already see changes among those who have opened up their minds," he said.

He said it was impossible for the government to achieve its goals without political supremacy and support from all Malaysians.

"Umno members must lead the way in casting aside feelings of hurt and dissatisfaction," he added.

- Bernama

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