

Zahid: For my loyalty I get called 'apple polisher'

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Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he faced flak from those who nursed a deep hatred of the Umno and its leaders, especially its president, Najib Razak, to the point of being called an "apple polisher", "strong helper" and "strong defender".

Zahid, who is also Umno vice-president, said he defended the prime minister as he was entrusted with helping Najib, who is also the premier.

"We don't catch the skipper and throw him into the sea when the ship is hit by a storm or buffeted by waves. Every leader will definitely be tested in a struggle," he said.

He said this in his speech in a ceremony to hand over schooling aids to 2,991 primary school pupils in the Bagan Datoh Parliamentary constituency today.

Zahid also urged the people not to despise Umno and its leaders because they must realise and remember the deeds and contributions of the party to them.

"Umno is not just a political party but it is also a social institution which has not only implemented its political agenda but has also been involved in numerous activities in the fields of education, religion, and the economy for the benefit of the nation.

"This is what Umno fights for, without marginalising any religion, race or culture.

Zahid also urged parents to value their children as assets and be willing to invest in their education.

He said Umno, as the ruling party, was willing to invest in education such as helping to pay school fees and providing pocket money and text books.

"No country in the world, whether rich, developing or poor, pays the school fees of students. Only Malaysia does so, and, not only that, poor pupils also receive other aid such as breakfast, clothes and pocket money," he said.

Also present was Education Minister Mahdzir Khalid.

- Bernama

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