

Zahid reminds against creating party splinter group

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Umno members should support present leaders and not create divisions if they want the party to remain strong, said Umno vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the attempt by some Umno members to create factions, purportedly to contribute ideas in the party's interests, would only weaken and destroy Umno.

"If you want the party to be strong, there should not be any splinter group, so that the party remains united.

"Why should there be a separate meeting, at a different place with other groups having different ideas and stand," he said when opening the finals of the Umno President's Trophy Oratory competition in Kuala Lumpur today.

Also present were Umno information chief Ahmad Maslan and executive secretary Ab Rauf Yusoh.

Ahmad Zahid was apparently referring to the programme attended by Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin at the Sultan Sulaiman Club in Kampung Baru in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The programme was also attended by former Umno president Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Umno vice-president Mohd Shafie Apdal and party veteran Aziz Yassin.

Ahmad Zahid said: "I don't want to say if the person is still alive or is dead, but remember, there is no group in Umno, there is no group which support this or that, we are all Umno members".

He said there would be various tests facing Umno leaders and party members should evaluate the diligence and resilience of the particular leader in facing the challenges and tribulations.

He said the present leaders are facing greater challenges compared to their predecessors.

At the event, Ahmad Zahid also launched the Alumni of the Umno President's Trophy oratory participants.

He said programmes would be organised for the approximately 2,500 alumni of the competition to educate and enhance their personality.

"We want to see all participants of the oratory contest become effective orators," he added.

A total of 15 finalists vied for the trophy. The winner walks away with RM20,000, a

certificate, as well as a challenge cup and a trophy.

- Bernama

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