

Muhyiddin to face action if he crosses line, says Zahid

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Umno will take action against Muhyiddin Yassin if the party deputy president is found to have crossed the line in his political programmes.

Party vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said: "If it is true that he has crossed the line, it is up to the wisdom of the leadership to decide on the action to be taken.

"If we still want to support someone who has crossed the line, then wait for the moment when a leadership decay sets in, and this will pose difficulties to the organisation," he said.

He disclosed this in an exclusive interview with Bernama senior editors in conjunction with the 2015 Umno general assembly which ends Saturday.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the deputy prime minister, said as far as Muhyiddin and his supporters are concerned, the provocation made against the party leadership might not be considered as crossing the line "but certainly there are many interpretations to this."

Asked why no action had been taken so far against Muhyiddin who was seen to have crossed the line, Ahmad Zahid said that this was the wisdom of Prime Minister Najib Razak who would make a decision not merely for short-term solution.

"This can be resolved by demonstrating transparency as well as managing several issues without any hidden agenda. The people are more literate and they want to know the actual situation," he said.

On the Umno supreme council which was said to have difficulty in taking action against Muhyiddin, with a motion that must be made at the Umno general assembly to allow the action to be taken against the deputy president, Ahmad Zahid said:

"There must be a notice given but we cannot prevent it if there are spokesmen proposing the move. As a dynamic party, the voice of the grassroots will be heard.

"Do not put the blame on the leadership if action is to be taken (against Muhyiddin)," he said.

On the action of the party to change the tradition this time with the opening of the three party wings being carried out by the heads of the respective movements, Ahmad Zahid said it should not be construed as an obstruction (to Muhyiddin).

"(In fact) there is freedom of expression even if it is outside the party mould, but the voice is still heard especially by Umno members," he said referring to the 'Program With the Umno Deputy President' held at Kelab Sultan Sulaiman in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur last night.

Obtaining feedback

On the claim by several Umno veterans that the party had become dictatorial and that there was no longer any democracy in Umno, Ahmad Zahid said "no matter how liberal the approach is, if one asks the enemy how good is the action taken, it is always not good in the eyes of the enemy."

Commenting on the role of Umno as the backbone of the Barisan Nasional (BN) especially in facing the next general election, Ahmad Zahid said efforts to strengthen the party were being taken by the party leadership by going down to the states to explain current issues, besides obtaining feedback on the problems faced by Umno members.

"We should not only look at the general election but look whether Umno will still be relevant when the nation celebrates its 100th Merdeka anniversary in 2057 and whether the Malays still give their support. Do the Malaysians still give their trust to Umno and the BN?" he said.

- Bernama

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