

Zahid: If Dr M had his way with Umno, my grave would be desecrated

Malaysiakini

27 February 2022

JOHOR POLLS | Umno president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today said his grave would be desecrated by angry members if he had heeded former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for the party to be disbanded.

On the campaign trail in Parit Yaani, Johor, Zahid claimed he had to pay a high price of being slapped with 87 corruption charges after refusing to disband Umno and join Bersatu, at the time led by Mahathir as its chairperson.

"I was only the Umno president for six months. He (Mahathir) asked me to jump, he asked me to disband Umno (but) I said 'Tun, I will not dissolve Umno.

"Because if today I dissolve Umno and tomorrow I die, my grave will be flooded. Why? 3.8 million Umno members will desecrate my grave (Kubur saya akan banjir. Kenapa banjir? 3.8 juta ahli-ahli Umno akan kencing atas kubur saya).

"Because I did not follow his order to join Bersatu, because I defended Umno, I am made to pay a high price with 87 charges," he said.

The current PN government led by Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who is also Umno vice-president, comprised BN MPs who had supported Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin after the Sheraton Move toppled Pakatan Harapan's administration.

Since then, strained ties between Umno and Bersatu eventually saw BN and PN candidates facing off in all 56 seats in the Johor state assembly, despite remaining together on the federal level.

Muhyiddin had even prior to the start of official campaigns urged Johor voters to reject Umno with its "court cluster" or leaders charged with corruption, including Zahid and former premier Najib Razak.

'Don't forget our service'

Zahid, however, reminded Muhyiddin that his rise to power as prime minister succeeding Mahathir was due to the support of 43 BN MPs, including himself and Najib.

"Without the 43 MPs, he can forget about ever being PM. Don't forget our service, don't forget the service of Umno leaders who are also MPs, even the 'Bossku' he hated had given support.

"After he became PM, 'this person is from the court cluster, that person from the court cluster'. Who made us a part of the court cluster? His former boss, the 7th prime minister!," said Zahid.

In Parit Yaani, BN's Mohamad Najib Samuri is contesting in a four-cornered contest against PAS' Ahmad Naufal Mahfodz, Pejuang's Mohd Ridhauddin Mohd Tahir and Harapan's Aminolhuda Hassan.

Campaigning for the Johor polls kicked off yesterday. Johoreans will go to the polls on March 12.

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