

Calls for reform in Umno ring out after state polls drubbing

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Calls for Umno to be reformed are becoming louder following the party's poor showing in the six state polls.

After getting totally wiped out in Terengganu and Kedah, as well as suffering huge losses in Selangor, Penang, and Kelantan, voices from within the party believe it is time for Umno to have a change of leadership.

One of them is Umno Youth chief Dr Akmal Saleh, who subtly called for party reform to regain the people's trust.

"The responsibility for Umno leaders now is to gain back the people's trust in Umno.

"We need to prioritise being the voice of the people instead of fighting for any leader.

"Have the courage to change if we do not want Umno to lose its relevance," he

said in a Facebook post this morning.

In a separate statement, former Terengganu Umno chief Idris Jusoh did not mince his words and suggested that Umno president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi resign.

He believed the deputy prime minister should take responsibility for the electoral drubbing.

“Umno suffered a major defeat in the six state elections yesterday. Umno also lost 100 percent in Terengganu.

“Zahid should resign,” Idris (above, right) said.

The state elections yesterday saw Umno securing only 19 state seats in Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Penang, and Kelantan, with no victories in Terengganu and Kedah.

The results showed that the Pakatan Harapan-BN pact was only successful in Negeri Sembilan, where a two-thirds majority could be won with BN contributing 14 out of 31 seats for the state government.

BN also failed to contribute more than two seats to the pact in all other states, including the crucial state of Kedah, where they suffered a wipeout.

In Terengganu, both BN and Harapan were also wiped out and saw Perikatan Nasional make a clean sweep.

Meanwhile, former Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin expects that Zahid will not step down even if BN performs poorly in the state elections.

Khairy, who was sacked from Umno, reportedly said in Rembau yesterday that Umno would instead feign ignorance and it will be business as usual.

“Zahid will not step down. Umno will continue to run as usual.

“The party will act clueless,” he said, as quoted by the News Straits Times.

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