

**Prepare for general election, Hisham tells BN**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
**July 04, 2010**

Umno vice-president Hishammuddin Hussein said today the time has come for the BN, particularly Umno, to prove that their past weaknesses and mistakes have been successfully overcome.

NONEAs such, the BN and all its component parties must now be prepared to face the 13th general election without dilly-dallying anymore, he said.

He said cliché and petty excuses which were frequently used before could no longer be cited to support reasons for 'running away' from contesting in the election.

Hishammuddin said amendments to the (party) constitution and a comprehensive transformation in Umno were drastic measures taken to rebuild the party's strength, thus enabling Umno to emerge as the first BN component party to take the bold move.

"We have no choice. We have to be ready, how long can we give the excuse that we are not ready? How long can we delay the election and say that we are still saddled with problems that we had to face during the rehabilitation before?" he asked.

Hishammuddin, who is also the Home Minister, said this when referring to a statement by another Umno vice-president, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who will present a motion to hand over the chairmanship of the State Umno Liaison Bodies in five states to the party leadership in the states concerned.

This was because Umno's position in the five states, namely Selangor, Terengganu, Penang, Kedah, and the Federal Territory had become strong again, according to Ahmad Zahid.

When asked whether he was ready to relinquish the post of chairman of the Terengganu Umno Liaison Body to the Menteri Besar, Ahmad Said, Hishammuddin said this aspect would eventually be determined the party members.

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