

Zaid pledges Khalid full support to retain S'gor
Malaysiakini.com
October 19, 2010

PKR deputy presidential hopeful Zaid Ibrahim promised today that as the party's number two, he will ensure Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim gets “all the support needed” for Selangor to remain under Pakatan Rakyat.

To this end, said the Pakatan coordinator, he would ensure that “our prize asset, Selangor, will remain strong and free from infighting”.

“I will ensure that Khalid will be given all the support needed to achieve electoral success and accelerate developmental activities so that the people will retain PKR and Pakatan Rakyat in Selangor,” he wrote in a posting on his blog, 'Zaid untuk rakyat'.

In the posting, Zaid (*left*) also expanded on the promises he had made upon submitting his acceptance form for the nominations he had received for deputy president - which sees him taking on vice-presidents Azmin Ali and Mustaffa Kamil Ayub.

These include strengthening and reinvigorating PKR's grassroots and their activities, moving away from “feudalistic” and personality-based politics and empowering party branches and state-level committees.

“We can no longer afford to assume that the central leadership knows everything. I will work with party members at every level to develop just and sustainable policies for better management,” Zaid declared.

For instance, in the crucial states of Sabah and Sarawak, he said, members and leaders needed to be selected based on the “the most rigorous” standards and the communities they represented.

“The Sabahans, for example, should be allowed to elect their own chiefs. As should the Sarawakians.”

Of reformists, Islamists, Anwaristas and socialists

He also said he would “work tirelessly to extinguish prejudice and suspicion among the various groups, races, and religions” comprising the party and a “more transparent and democratic” organisation.

“We cannot sap our energies operating in different groups - East Malaysians versus West Malaysians, reformists versus Islamists, Anwaristas and socialists versus everyone else,” said Zaid.

“We need to be clear as to where we stand on the rights and liberties of our citizens. We must champion the plights of all Malaysians.

“I believe that the party should defend the federal constitution and seek justice for every ethnic

group, without fear of being accused of neglecting our own race.”

Towards keeping the government of the day accountable and convincing the rakyat that the party has capable leaders, Zaid said he would appoint “only the best and the brightest” to bolster the party and its parliamentarians.

“While other candidates harp on their ability to protect Anwar, I believe he has mustered the best legal team to protect him. I, too, care about him and his family, but above all, the struggle and interests of the people that are paramount.

“And I know that the party members will be able to make that distinction. The future of Malaysia is inextricably intertwined with the future of our party. We have to stay on course.

“The people have chosen to trust us. And so, I humbly ask for your faith that we may work together in reclaiming our party's ideals at this defining moment in history.”

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/145786>