

THE STAR

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Ezam is back in Umno

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Ex-Keadilan Youth head can be of help to Umno, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Parti Keadilan Rakyat Youth leader Ezam Mohd Nor is back in Umno.

Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he welcomed Ezam's return to the party but he (Ezam) was not promised any party position or privileges.

He said Ezam did not ask for any, but he believed Ezam was only interested in continuing with the party's struggles.

He also did not join Umno with any condition imposed on him, added Abdullah.

"He wants to come back to Umno and he will continue with the struggles of Umno according to the party's goal and direction, and not Parti Keadilan.

"So I accepted him," Abdullah said at a press conference after holding a brief meeting with Ezam at Parliament, here, yesterday.

Ezam also handed his registration form and RM100 for his party's lifetime membership fee to Abdullah.

Abdullah said what was special about Ezam was that he had left Umno to lead another party but returned after learning that Umno was a better party.

He said he did not hold any discussion with Umno Youth before



Welcome: Abdullah receiving Ezam's membership form at the Parliament House yesterday.

accepting Ezam back into the party.

He added that any new membership in the party, including Ezam's return, would boost the party's strength.

On whether Ezam would be allowed to contest in the party's election end of the year, he said it

would depend on the party's constitution.

Asked if Ezam's return would cause internal conflicts or enemies within the party since he was former political secretary to PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Abdullah said "no".

He also said Ezam had changed his mind now although he used to criticise Umno when he was in PKR.

However, Abdullah said if there were other PKR members who wanted to join Umno, the party had to "look at who the person is first."