

Ezam: It's due to Pak Lah

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'I'm back because of PM's commitment to bringing reform'

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PETALING JAYA: Ezam Mohd Nor is back in Umno because of party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's commitment to bringing change and reform.

The former Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Youth leader said he wanted to show his support and commitment, and therefore joined hands with Abdullah and other leaders to continue with their struggle to fight graft.

Ezam denied that he was offered "carrots" or positions in the party to make a comeback.

"If 'carrot' is the consideration, I have been offered many bigger 'carrots' before," he told a press conference at a hotel here yesterday.

"I am joining Umno as you all know when it is not in the strongest position.

"So positions or 'carrots' are never my considerations, and my decision is purely based on my convictions, and my convictions are for reform."

According to Bernama, Ezam said he was ready to contest the Umno Youth chief post if his leadership could help raise the status of the Malays.

He said he would discuss the matter with other Umno leaders before making a decision.

Also joining Umno yesterday were former Kedah PKR Youth chief Khairul Anuar Ramli, former Perlis PKR Youth chief Ahmad Daud Ghani, former PKR Youth exco member Azwandeelin Hamzah, former Selangor PKR secretary S.D. Johari Yasin and former Selangor PKR state liaison youth secretary Nazmi Rosli.

Former Permatang Pauh Youth chief Annuar Shaari, who was also once private secretary to PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, also handed his application to join Umno to Deputy



Back in the fold: Ezam (seated, second from left) posing with (standing, from left) Nazmi, Khairul Anuar, Azwandeelin and Ahmad Daud, and S.D. Johari (seated, right). With them are Malaysian Indian United Party (MIUP) chief Datuk K.S. Nallakaruppan (seated, second from right) and former PKR Youth secretary Hamdan Tahir (seated, left) who joined Umno in 2004.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at Parliament yesterday.

Ezam added that corruption was the number one challenge to the country.

"The Prime Minister has brought changes to the judiciary and the Anti-Corruption Agency in a short period, and we cannot expect him to make drastic changes overnight," he said.

"For the past 10 or 20 years, I have not seen any

prime minister with the courage to introduce these sorts of reforms, and Abdullah has made two major changes in a month.

"I am convinced that more changes and reforms will take place."

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Dr M: I'm out, he's (Ezam) in