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'Umno lost 3 states due to Dr M's actions'

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KUALA KETIL: Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a way to make people follow his lead, which was his biggest advantage that enabled him to influence others and become a supreme leader.

Having said so, Annuar reminded party members that they had lost three states, namely Selangor, Kelantan and Penang, due to the major splits in the party, which was a result of the actions taken by Dr Mahathir in the past.

"It is true that Dr Mahathir is a leader. He became the supreme leader because he has the ability to make people follow his way.

"And, that is what I did (follow his lead), but when I look back, Umno has become smaller year by year due to the splits in the party.

"When Datuk Onn Jaafar left the party, he left alone without disturbing the party.

"When Tun Musa Hitam left the party, he left alone without inciting others to destroy the party.

"When Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah left, he formed a new party and that was the first major split in Umno."

Annuar said this at the opening of Baling Umno division delegates' meeting at the Tuanku Permaisuri Hajjah Haminah Hall of Kolej Universiti Insaniah here yesterday.

Present were Baling Umno division chief Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim, Baling Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim.

According to Annuar, the most unfortunate thing that happened every time Umno split was that the party would give a "present" to others.

"The first time the party experienced a major split was when Dr Mahathir turned his back against Tengku Razaleigh, which resulted in the birth of Semangat 46, and we gave Kelantan to the party. Since then, we have failed to regain Kelantan.

"Then, the quarrel between Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim led to the birth of PKR, which later won Selangor, a state that we have developed and modernised, and was once the symbol of a developed state in Malaysia.

"We have given everything extra to Selangor.

"We developed Kuala Lumpur and Selangor as a success symbol of the struggles that Umno fought for, yet Dr Mahathir 'gave' it to PKR," Annuar said, adding that Umno had also lost Penang to DAP due to Dr Mahathir's mistake.

Annuar said many crises occurred under the leadership of Dr Mahathir and Umno lost many of its members and supporters.