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Zahid: Defend Umno against attacks from ex-leaders

Don't stand idle but counter-attack, party members urged

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TEMERLOH: It is the responsibility of Umno members to defend the party from attacks by former leaders, said party vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Likening Umno to a house, he said those who already left were now trying to destroy the home in which they once resided.

"As warriors, we shouldn't just stand behind our leaders. We must stand by their side with our spears, lances and sniper rifles," he said at the opening of the Temerloh Umno division delegates meeting here yesterday.

"We have to defend our house when people throw faeces at it. I cannot sit idly by when people are chucking spears at our leader. I will pick it up and throw it back at them," he said.

In an apparent reference to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Dr Ahmad Zahid said the former leader should have just sat quietly "outside the Umno house now that he is no longer paying rent".

"Pak Lah has never thrown stones at our house. Pak Lah has never taken a saw and cut away at the house's columns," he said referring to Dr Mahathir's successor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The people who have left should help those who are moving in. But when a grandfather keeps caning his grandchildren every day, they are bound to harbour bad feelings.

"If the grandfather can't respect himself and love his grandchildren, then he shouldn't return home. We don't want him back either," he said.

Dr Ahmad Zahid said this person had once smeared his politi-

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Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi

cal reputation but even then, he chose to stay on in Umno.

"In 1999, nobody wanted to shake my hand at all at the Umno general assembly because of the political smear.

"I stayed on because I love the house and I believe in the struggle of those staying in it," he said, adding that this was the test being faced by party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak now.

Although Dr Ahmad Zahid did not mention the name of the individual, he had recently been accused by Dr Mahathir of once having RM230mil.

Present at the event were Pahang party chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Temerloh Umno chief Datuk Seri Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin.

At the Raub Umno division delegates' meeting, Dr Ahmad Zahid said the Government would not hesitate to act against those who abused their powers to the extent of causing losses to the Federal Land Development Authority.

"We know Feida has some disturbing issues and I fully support the move by the MACC (the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission) to probe it and bring those involved to court.

"We will never ever let the individuals or leaders involved to get away with it." Bernama quoted him as saying at the meeting held at Universiti Teknologi Mara campus here yesterday.

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