



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (right) at the Umno General Assembly yesterday. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

Zahid: Umno backs Anwar but let party reps govern 3 states

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi restated the party's support for the prime minister in his policy speech at the Umno General Assembly yesterday.

Zahid said the party would be at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's side.

"Prime minister, I'm here together with the whole Umno Supreme Council to support and assist you. Those down there (delegates in the hall) will be the election machinery for the upcoming state elections."

He told Umno members to do their best to win the six states during the coming elections.

Zahid also asked Anwar for Umno lawmakers to be part of the government of the three Pakatan Harapan-led states: Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Penang.

"We want to defend our control in Penang, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan. PM, don't forget... we want Umno representatives in the three state governments. Currently we have none," he said.

He also urged the people to give the Madani government, still in

its infancy at seven months, a chance to implement "game-changer" initiatives.

He said he believed it could be done with the support of civil servants.

"We know there is a small group of people who might still be inclined to back certain past leaders. However, we are confident we will get civil to implement policies for the wellbeing of the people and country."

He said Umno, which is part of the government, has a big role in the coming state elections.

He said the party was the "shield and fortress" that upheld the fundamentals of nationhood, including the position of Islam, the Malays, Bumiputeras and Article 153 of the Federal Constitution.

Zahid said Umno would guarantee that the political cooperation that it forged in the unity government was for the interests of the country and people.

He gave an assurance that the party would not allow "power hungry" quarters to disrupt the country's political stability.