

General Election: Umno Leaders In State Of Preparedness
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Like just waiting for the switch to be on, several Umno division leaders have stated their preparedness if the government decides to hold the general election very soon.

Their preparedness is the result of the general election simulation exercise held at the divisional level from June until this month, besides the general preparations made in facing the 13th general election.

The simulation exercise had identified the voters, the potential winnable candidates and the party's general election committees who are now prepared to face the real elections.

Seri Gading Umno division chief Datuk Mohamed Aziz said the simulation exercise was to refresh the minds of the election workers from the party and to reactivate the election machinery in facing the real situation.

"It's good to have the simulation exercise though we've always been and must always be prepared. We should not take things lightly, definitely not the general election," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday reminded Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to strengthen unity, and indicated that the general election was getting nearer by saying that there was limited time, probably a few months, before the elections.

The simulation exercise was held on the order of the Umno headquarters after the party's supreme council had on May 27, decided on it as preparation for the coming general election.

On Muhyiddin's statement, Mohamed who is also Seri Gading MP, said the party leadership was looking for a suitable date and this was indicative to Umno about the coming elections.

Puteri Umno chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said with the simulation exercise, her members were more prepared to face any eventuality, besides getting good exposure for the real situation.

"So when the time comes, Puteri's work will not be overlapping with that of the other wings in order to have a positive impact. It will be more systematic and Puteri will be better prepared to deal with potentially arising problems," said Rosnah, who is also Deputy Health Minister.

Selayang Umno division chief Abdul Shukor Idrus, who is also Kuang assemblyman, said the simulation exercise gave party members some useful ideas on how to woo voters who had previously turned against Umno.

"We've identified, for example, what should be done, what are the opposition's strategies that we need to tackle, and how long should our ceramah be.

"The simulation exercise was important although the divisions generally have been prepared for the general election at any time. We're just fine-tuning things while there's still time," he said.

"Hit the switch, and we'll move," he added, encapsulating the state of Umno divisions' preparedness in facing the 13th general election.

The current parliamentary terms ends in March 2013, less than two years from now.

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