

## **Sacrifices From Stalwarts Pave Way For Winnable Candidates**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- The willingness of several stalwarts to make way for "winnable candidates" have been well-received by delegates who understand and appreciate the presidential speech at the Umno General Assembly 2011.

Initial reactions shown by former Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Umno Supreme Council member and Member of Parliament for Kinabatangan Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin, Penang opposition chief Datuk Azhar Ibrahim and Wanita Penang chief Zabariah Wahab reflected the delegates willingness to make a sacrifice in the interest of the party.

It seems the call made by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has been accepted by the old guards who are ready to make the sacrifice.

Off late, Najib has stressed the importance of fielding winnable candidates who are accepted by voters and have the ability to win.

A real chance of victory is vital to ensure the survival of the Barisan Nasional (BN) in wresting seats from the opposition and to return to power with two-thirds majority.

To do so, Umno and the BN must find candidates who are the darlings of voters. If this effort fails, then the desired results in the 13th general election may not be achieved.

For political analysts, if incumbents refuse to give way because they still considered themselves "winnable candidates" or BN trump cards, this will affect the prime minister's aspiration to perform better than the 12th general election in 2008.

However, the willingness shown is a good sign in striving for change or transformation in Umno amid mounting challenges as voters are becoming more sophisticated and demanding.

The willingness will pave the way for Najib to introduce dynamic candidates for the polls and prove that Umno members are willing to take a new role as "Umno persons" and make sacrifices in the interest of the party.

In espousing his readiness to make way for another candidate, Bung Mokhtar said if ever he was dropped, he would give an unstinting support to another candidate who would be fielded in the Kinabatangan parliamentary seat as a gratitude to the people who had supported him all these years.

Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said it was immaterial who would be chosen as candidates for the pillar of the party's struggle was to ensure whoever met the criteria could win the election.

However, those who are not chosen should remain faithful and firmly support the party's decision, he added.

Penang Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman said Umno delegates should take their cues from the president and discard self-interest as they gear up for the

next general election.

Kedah delegate Datuk Md Jali Lateh said if the delegates were willing to make an extraordinary work, sacrifices and enhance unity, there was no reason the BN would lose their ground in the next general election.

The remarks made by Umno leaders will pave the way for the leadership in selecting winnable candidates for the next general election.

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