

Change can happen only when Malays are ready, says Zaid
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SHAH ALAM, Dec 13 — KITA party president Datuk Zaid Ibrahim said today there can only be change in governance when the Malays are ready.

"Malays will determine who wins (the next general election), not only because they're the biggest group ... They are governed by a party telling them that their rights will be challenged if they vote otherwise," Zaid told a political forum organised by Sinar Harian here today.

"Are they ready to give that up? Are they ready to make that change? If they are, only then will we see a change," he added.

Zaid was speaking at the forum entitled "PRU13: Undi Siapa Jadi Penentu" (GE13: Whose Vote Counts), which was also attended by Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar and Professor Madya Dr Abu Hassan Hasbullah of University Malaya.

However, the former Umno-turned-PKR politician expressed his lack of confidence over a significant power shift happening in the near future.

"I am not confident of a coming change because of a media that is controlled by a ruling party that does not portray true Malay values," Zaid said.

"The ruling party does not know what is right or wrong anymore."

KITA, a party founded by Zaid, announced last week it will not be contesting in the coming polls and promised to offer its "unconditional support" to the federal opposition.

The party said it had decided to reverse its earlier decision to contest in the polls as it wanted to maintain solidarity with the opposition and not jeopardise its chances by splitting the vote.

The party also came out in defence of Pakatan Rakyat (PR) amid the ongoing barrage of Umno-led attacks against DAP as a "racist" party.

During the just-concluded Umno annual general meeting, delegates took turns to warn of DAP's purported dominance in PR, claiming if the pact claims Putrajaya, the Malays would lose power to the Chinese.

Calling the accusations "dangerous and irresponsible", KITA had said the statements would only serve to widen current divisions in society.

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