

Umno veeps say will pull out if unpopular
The Malaysian Insider
December 01, 2011
By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 — Three senior Umno leaders today said they will have no problem bowing out of the upcoming general election if considered unpopular.

Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said this in response to party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak's call on Tuesday urging unpopular elected representatives to make a graceful exit in the 13th general election.

"Not a problem whatsoever, three of us," Hishammuddin told reporters today following Najib's policy speech at the party's annual general assembly here.

"This is an indication (from) our party president... Those who cannot give victory to the party we must conduct self-criticism. If we can no longer bring victory, then we have to back down."

He praised former Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, who has decided not to stand in the election.

"We all got an SMS from Datuk Idris Jusoh saying he is not ready to stand. This is a good example and I think more should follow in this manner," Zahid said.

Hishammuddin said self-sacrifice in Umno for the betterment of the country was not unique.

"Who are we if we look at former presidents and even prime ministers who were willing to do it for the good of the party?" he asked.

"So this is not unique... Looking back, those who love Umno have proven, from the highest leadership," he said.

Shafie urged party members to place Barisan Nasional as the ruling government before self.

"Regeneration of leadership is very important. If you love our struggle and our party and as Umno members give support."

The Malaysian Insider
Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/umno-veeps-say-will-pull-out-if-unpopular/>