

**Make Way For Winnable Candidates**  
**Bernama**  
**December 1 , 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- More Umno members should state their intention not to contest in the 13th general election if there are better candidates in order to make it easier for the top leadership to select winnable candidates.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said: "This will make it easier for the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also Umno president, to carry out his task and prevent many people from being offended."

"The party president does not want to use the sharp blade to chop off the heads of people who can no longer give victory for the party, but we must carry out our own self-evaluation. If we can no longer give victory to the party, then we should step down," he said.

He said this at the joint press conference with two other Umno vice-presidents, namely Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein after the official opening of the Umno General Assembly 2011 by Najib, here Thursday.

Ahmad Zahid said Umno members should evaluate whether they could assist the party to win the general election if they were to contest or merely pose a disadvantage to the party as stated by the Umno president in his policy speech.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said the existing elected representatives should look at the history of Umno where the top party leadership such as Tun Hussein Onn, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, were willing to step down when they were at the peak so that the party could continue to be in power.

"Who are we. If we look at the previous presidents, from Tun Hussein, Tun Mahathir, Tun Abdullah who stepped down for the survival of the party and did so in a proper and civilised manner. Who are we at the level of the elected representative.

"So this is not something unique because there had been a precedent," he said.

Shafie, meanwhile, said that under the present political landscape, the situation had changed a lot and required Umno to make sacrifices for the sake of the party's survival.

"It means that when the time comes, our love for the party prevails, our service should also continue whether up front or as a supporter. What is important is that power remains with the Barisan Nasional," he said.

When asked by reporters whether he was prepared to do so, Hishammuddin said: "No problem."

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=631271>

