

Najib's Message Touches On Election, Political Transformation
Bernama
November 20, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- The special message from Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak specifically for the Youth and Puteri movements here Sunday, among other things stressed on political transformation efforts and the party's preparation for the next general election.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammudin Tun Hussein said the special session for the delivery of the message by Najib, the first time it was being held specifically for the two wings, set the tone to form the mindset and environment prior to the Umno General Assembly which would start on Nov 29.

The message was the best start for the general assembly, he told reporters after attending the special session by Najib at the Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Meanwhile, Umno information head Datuk Ahmad Maslan said the message also touched on the strategy to wrest back the states lost by the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the last general election, and efforts to maintain the victory in the states held by the BN.

Ahmad said in the next general election, young voters would form 38.8 per cent of the 12 million voters and they were within the 21 and 40 age group who would decide victory for the BN in the general election or otherwise.

In this context, the Umno Youth and Puteri movements would play an important role in getting closer to the young voters.

Puteri Umno head Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said Najib wanted the Umno Youth and Puteri movements to be more prepared in facing the general election and to accept whoever were selected as candidates for the party.

She said the Umno president also emphasised how important it was for all the Umno machinery to assist in ensuring victory for the candidates selected and to refrain from any act of sabotage by giving priority to the party.

Umno Youth head Khairy Jamaludin said the session also called on the two party wings to inject motivation in view of the fact that the young voters would be the deciding factor in the coming election.

"All this while, the president's message was only given to the division heads or top leaders at the divisional level. So today, we received a dose of inspiration from the president himself, and this shows that the machinery who will go out to approach the five million young voters are appreciated and given inspiration by the party president," he said.

Khairy said the Prime Minister also gave recognition to all the programmes implemented by the movement, such as the BN Youth Job Fair, except that the president wanted several additions to be made to ensure that the young voters moved back to the BN.

The Umno Youth and Puteri movements took note of the suggestions and were confident

that the president's wishes could be fulfilled based on the growing support given by the young generation to the BN in the last two by-elections, he said.

At the function, Umno Youth and Puteri movements also launched the new slogan, "BN Pilihan Orang Muda" (BN, the Young People's Choice) as the new identity of the movements in efforts to give more options to the targeted voters in the run up to the next general election.

"Beginning today, all activities are focused on the slogan, where the new identity would become our main thrust. In the past, we had "Undilah Barisan Nasional" (Vote Barisan Nasional) and now we refresh that the young generation has an option, the power lies with them, choose after seeing what the BN has done and offered all this while," he said.

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