

Five Core Strengths Determines Umno's Survival

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- The five core strengths emphasised by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his speech at the opening of the Umno general assembly 2010 must be understood by every party member as they would determine the relevance and survival of the party.

Although the strengths were nothing new, they would determine whether Umno could continue to compete and remain relevant in the country's political arena.

The core strengths were perceived to be able to unite party members who numbered 3,297,358 now.

Deputy chairman of the Kedah Umno liaison body Datuk Mukhriz Tun Mahathir was convinced that if the five core thrusts were put into practice, nothing could prevent the party from achieving victory.

The five core strengths raised by Najib yesterday should be seen as a 'warning bell' for the party to be prepared to face the 13th general election which was getting closer, he told Bernama, here.

Having a large membership was no guarantee that a party could win in a general election if the party members failed to absorb and appreciate the principles of the party.

Mukhriz, who is also the Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, said the erosion of these core strengths was also seen as the reason for the loss of support from the teaching fraternity which formed the party's strongest supporters previously.

"If I look at the policy speech of the Umno president in 1996, during my father's (Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad) era, he had already said then that he feared that Umno would no longer be a party with a majority of its members comprising teachers and the membership beginning to comprise mostly of entrepreneurs," he said.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein felt that although they were not debated in detail by the delegates, it did not mean that the core strengths were not taken seriously.

"The matters raised by the president were accepted by Umno people. Some might have heard the matters raised for the first time, but they understood them," he said.

The five core strengths are the ability to relook at the party to benefit from the new environment; to uphold the principle of moderation, to be in the forefront in the supremacy of ideas; to place the welfare of the people above everything else; and the ability to deliver promises.

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