

**Winnable Candidate And Loyalty, Widely Talked About  
Bernama  
December 2 , 2011  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- The term "winnable candidate" is now a hot topic among delegates at the Umno General Assembly 2011 at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Many leaders may feel that they are among the 'winnable candidates', especially those who are currently elected representatives, but is this a fact? There are also those who want them to make way for the 'winnable candidates' from among the new faces.

Can the leaders, who feel that they are also winnable candidates, make sacrifices by putting aside their self interest as well as that of their cliques, when the top leadership makes a decision that does not favour them?

"Sacrifices in terms of resources, energy and time may be easily made but are they prepared to sacrifice in terms of their sentiments? This is what the leadership pointed out so that as supporters and Umno warriors, they must make this sacrifice (willingly accept that they are not selected as candidates)," said Mohd Rosdi, deputy head of the Tumpat Umno division.

He said there are many capable Umno leaders of calibre who can become elected representatives, but the fact is that only one will be chosen as the candidate for a Parliamentary of State constituency.

Melaka delegate Datuk Ahmad Hamzah said a winnable candidate is one who has the characteristics of a leader liked by the voters and can convey the message of the rakyat to the government.

"The candidate also has the ability to plead with the people whom he leads (party members) whenever a big issue crops up, he can resolve it although some of them may object. His voice is heard and respected," he said.

Ahmad said the existing leaders must have an open attitude and accept the decision of the top leadership on the candidate selected and be able to convince his supporters so that they will not oppose the decision and continue to work for the victory of the candidate chosen.

Another delegate said that as soon as a general election is announced, no leader had the right to claim that the seat held by him belonged to him.

"It is up to the leadership to choose the winnable candidate to contest," said Datuk Ghazale Mohamad from the Jasin division.

Both delegates concurred that a briefing should be held at the branch and division level to remind party members on the message of loyalty and acts of sabotage emphasised by party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Another politician, Wan Zamzuri Wan Hasenan wrote in his blog that the candidate factor could result in the party becoming weak if there were members who did not support the decision of the party.

He said that studies revealed that the candidate factor certainly contributed to the party's victory but the factors of stability and internal problems could also determine victory or defeat for the party.

He felt that many among the 3.2 million Umno members nationwide actually did not understand or were vague on the concept of the winnable candidate.

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