

Zahid Hamidi: Umno Must Avoid Sabotage In General Election
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Elements of sabotage in the last general election must stop to ensure victory for Umno candidates in the 13th general election, said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said Umno must have zero defect through unity to curb acts of sabotage before the general election.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Defence Minister, said holding a high post did not mean a person was an automatic candidate.

"But what is worrying the top leadership are those division warlords who insist that they are picked as candidates regardless, and this will lead to problems.

"A general who is armed with a sharp sword will lose a battle if he has no soldiers to back him up. For this reason, we must have an army behind us, apart from the support of all," he told a press conference in conjunction with the coming 2011 Umno General Assembly.

Ahmad Zahid said it was important that the message be imparted by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his policy speech during the assembly.

"Our experience in the last election showed that unsolved conflicts led to the defeat of many Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates," he said.

He said a study revealed that good candidates could contribute 31 per cent to victory, and solving internal problems would contribute more than 50 per cent.

He stressed, other than the need to give full support to candidates picked by the top leaderships, the members must forget personal interests.

"I am quite sure the president and deputy president will stress that we cannot compromise on the defeat of a candidate only because of unsolved problems at the division level," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said party members should also redouble efforts to win back Selangor, Kedah, Kelantan and Penang and have two-third majority in parliament.

On the assembly, Ahmad Zahid hoped those taking part in the debate would stress on unity and the government's effort such as the Economic Transformation Programme.

On the influence of the new media such as the blogs, twitter and Facebook, he said they were seen as contributing to the rejection of BN in the last election.

He said the Prime Minister's initiative to create a blog and having a twitter and Facebook accounts was timely.

Touching on the opposition plan to hold a separate general election, the Bagan Datoh

Member of Parliament, said it was a good move.

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