

## **Kedah Umno Feels Brunt Of Being In The Opposition**

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**By Kamarul Ariffin Md Yassin**

ALOR SETAR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Even before Independence, Kedah had always been an Umno and Barisan Nasional (previously known as the Alliance) stronghold but all that changed after the 12th general election in 2008.

For the first time the state leadership changed hands, to PAS and its Pakatan component parties Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) and DAP.

The main factor for the loss was believed to be sabotage by Umno members themselves and the wrong choice of candidates apart from internal squabbles, not because the other party was stronger.

Realising how pathetic their situation was in trying to serve the people as an opposition, Kedah Umno made a bid to clean up the party of the infighting especially at the grassroots.

State Umno liaison chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah in an interview with Bernama here, said regaining Kedah was crucial and members needed to fully support the selected candidates in the next election even if they were not their choice.

"They must accept the 'winnable candidates' and then ensure that victory belongs to Umno and BN. As for divisional heads who might not be chosen as candidates, they will play the role of election directors and in this regard they must be sincere in carrying out their responsibilities," he stressed.

On the claim that Kedah Umno had become dispirited since losing at the last general election, he acknowledged that they were initially, but that things had now changed.

On the Umno annual general assembly to be held from Nov 29 until Dec 3, Ahmad Bashah said he hoped the delegates would acquire strength from it, particularly the president's address, in their commitment to regain the state.

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