

## **Umno Members Urged To Highlight Government Programmes, Instead Of Opposition's Weaknesses**

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**By Mohd Yusof Saari**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Umno members need to earnestly highlight the government's programmes to assist the people instead of harping on the opposition's weaknesses, said Umno Youth deputy chief Datuk Razali Ibrahim.

He said the benefits from the Government Transformation Programme, Economic Transformation Programme, as well as the political and social transformation mooted by the prime minister should be told to the people far and wide as support for such efforts would prevail longer than support obtained by exploiting the weaknesses of the opponents.

In an interview with Bernama in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly to be held next week, Razali said what Umno members should be doing was to create and increase public confidence that Umno was carrying out its duty and responsibilities in their interest, and that the party could be relied upon to steer the nation to a brighter future.

Admitting that this would not be easy, he said each Umno member must be able to digest every national transformation plan and programme before getting the people to understand and accept it.

"Considering that the general election will be held soon, Umno members must double their effort in building public confidence in Umno and the BN government without relying on issues plaguing the opposition pact," the Deputy Youth and Sports Minister said.

He said Umno Youth must get close to two target groups -- one to 'retain support' (those who are easier to be persuaded as the Umno ideology is already in them) and the other, to 'regain support', which called for a different approach.

Razali said Umno needed not be like the opposition who tried to win public support by deliberately creating issues in order to weaken policies introduced by the government.

Instead, he said, they should be smart and effective in explaining the government's noble efforts like the Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (KR1M), which was now under attack by the opposition for their own political interest.

"We should understand the issue and explain wisely that KR1M was created as an alternative grocery outlet for the lower-income group. If we can't explain the matter properly, then we won't be able to regain support from certain target groups," he said, adding that such groups were quite averse to rhetoric.

Razali said to achieve the goal, the party must ensure that "Umno is everywhere, it's presence always felt, and it is loved and appreciated by the people".

Razali, who is also Muar MP, said the challenge to place Umno in the mind of every member of society was not easy as there were certain quarters continuously sowing hatred among the people towards Umno, to the extent that in some places Umno was not only hated but reviled and condemned.

"This is among the main areas that Umno Youth must address, because whatever we do, the yardstick is when the people say, 'we need Umno', and not us saying, 'you need Umno'. We must work hard until people feel that they are at a loss without Umno," he said.

Razali said the organising of the BN Youth Job Carnival, BN Youth Music event and My First House programme which received overwhelming response, was part of getting close to the target groups to gain support for Umno and BN so as to ensure they remain relevant.

He said to regain public support after Umno and BN's dismal performance in the 2008 general election would be a long and tiring process, and if there were Umno Youth leaders who thought there were shortcuts, they were wrong.

On the Umno General Assembly starting next Tuesday, Razali said Umno Youth should come out with new ideas and suggestions to regain public trust in the party rather than focusing on prospective candidates for the coming general election, and questioning the role of BN component parties or the opposition's capability.

Retaining and regaining public support for Umno should instead be the priority, he said.

Razali said Umno Youth also hoped that Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, as Umno president and BN chairman, in his policy speech or debate winding-up speech at the general assembly, could give a clear message on the challenges faced by Umno and what the Youth wing should do, without having to protect the feelings of any quarters.

"After the assembly is over, we don't want to see the party at the state and divisional levels moving in different directions when only one should win, that is, BN.

"And if there's only one way to win, so be it and we be told our tasks and the challenges we have to face," he said.

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