

Work In An Extraordinary Manner For The Coming General Election
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his message to the party delegates for the 2011 Umno General Assembly stressed that the party leadership at the divisions and grassroots must work in an extraordinary manner to face the 13th General Election.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today said the Prime Minister also advised delegates not to treat lightly the next general election because it posed an extraordinary and most bitter challenge to the party.

He said this at a media conference with two other Umno vice-presidents, Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussein and Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal. They earlier attended a closed-door session on the delivery of the president's message, here, today from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Najib, in his message, also wanted priority to be given to party unity, other than the need to settle internal problems in the party at the divisional level even if the problem was small, said Ahmad Zahid.

"If there are still problems of sabotage, they must be pushed aside to focus on party agendas, not personal struggles. The 13th general election is not party election," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said if internal problems were overcome, there would be no sabotage or backstabbing at grassroot level.

On the winnable candidates which could threaten divisional leadership hierarchy in the selection of candidates for 13th general election, Ahmad Zahid said hierarchy was still being followed and the leadership at the divisional level remained a priority, but this was subject to whether they were winnable or otherwise.

"Everybody feels he can win, and I think, as such, we carry out researches and evaluations. The top leaderships will decide based on all the information received," he said.

Meanwhile, Hishamuddin said Najib also reminded the Umno members to place the interests of the party over individual interests, which was an important matter to understand in facing the next election.

The delegates must give the broadest ever mandate to the top leadership to ensure the party won and not certain individuals, he added.

Mohd Shafie said Najib wanted Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) to win the next general election with a comfortable margin to enable the government to continue implementing numerous transformation programmes which had been launched in the best possible manner in the interest and welfare of the people.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil felt the president's message was extraordinary to bolster the spirit and mould unity in the party. "The Umno president also reminded us to work in an extraordinary way and, sincerely, in the party struggle," she said. Meanwhile, Puteri Umno chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said Najib also gave the

image that the 13th general election could be considered as a major war whereby all party members must come forward as one family.

"In this context, we cannot be careless and there must not be any negative elements like before including elements of sabotage among ourselves when facing the general election," she said.

Umno Supreme Council Member Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan who is also Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar felt that among the essence of the president's message was suggesting that less popular leaders offered not to contest in 13th general election.

An example was the step taken by Gerakan president Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon who offered not to contest in the next election, and surely Najib was waiting for the same action from Umno leaders who were willing to sacrifice personal interests for party victory, he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Perak Umno Liasion Committee Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, who is also Perak Menteri Besar, said Umno members who were not chosen as the party's candidates for the next election must be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the party.

"You must not pressure (the leaders) that you must be selected by the party. We are facing an unusual environment, therefore it requires an unusual move and preparation as well," he said.

Meanwhile, Umno Supreme Council Member Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said all candidates picked to contest in PRU-13 must undertake a pledge of loyalty.

"We can win in the general election if the recipe is fostering unity and supporting anybody who is a winnable candidate," he said. "We have learned with full awareness and realisation in the general election of 2008. This is our provision to face the 13th general election and discussions during the assembly," he said.

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