

**"Winnable Candidate" Must Understand The Generation Shift - Khairy
Bernama
November 30, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- A candidate who is considered 'winnable' must understand the shift in thinking among the younger generation who now form almost 40 per cent of the total voters, said Umno Youth head Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said the shift in thinking, the rise of idealism and the boldness of the young leaders had brought about a positive transformation that showed the importance of transforming ideas in driving resurgence as well as the direction of the race and country.

"We must realise that the main factor in determining whether the candidate wins or loses in the general election is the presence of the young voters who are estimated to form almost 40 per cent of the total...the young generation of voters clearly have their own calculation and patterns of thought which differ greatly from the previous generation," he said in his hour-long policy speech at the Umno Youth General Assembly, here today.

He said a study by the Youth Laboratory revealed that among the young voters, 35 per cent of their voting decision were based on the party, 34 per cent on the candidate and 27 per cent on the key leaders at the national level.

Khairy said the study also revealed that 62 per cent of the voters were fence-sitters who would only choose what was perceived to be the best party and candidate.

"Thus the presumption and belief that the people always support the Barisan Nasional (BN) regardless of whom we field as our candidate is certainly a myth and misleading," he said.

Khairy said the "winnable candidates" must be picked on their merit and actual capability.

He said Umno Youth hoped there would no longer be any candidate selected based on sympathy or the 'cable' he or she had.

"We will be patient in waiting for our time or turn to come forward and we will certainly not use pressure to replace the old (leaders), we definitely do not claim to be the best. It is just that we wish to state with one voice and aspiration, that is, not to bypass the Youth leaders in choosing the next winnable candidates," he said.

At the same time, Khairy also issued a strong warning to a certain group of Umno members who supposedly support and pledged to help the 'winnable candidates' but projected themselves as the 'winnable candidates' before the election.

"Eventually, however, we believe and place strong confidence in the wisdom and consideration of the party's top leadership in determining the 'winnable candidate' among party members," he said.

Khairy said Umno Youth pledged that although it hoped to be given a chance, the most important cause was to ensure victory for the party in the general election.

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