

**Combination Of Candidates Needed For Coming General Election - Zahid
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BAGAN DATOH, March 29 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) needs a combination of professionals and those from the party hierarchy as candidates for the 13th general election, says Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"Umno cannot field all candidates from among the professionals or all from among the divisional leaders and members for the coming elections.

"I hope the Umno leadership will not reject the professionals altogether who should hail from the areas contested, as they can be credible candidates," he said after handing out computer laptops to 1,000 secondary students in the Bagan Datoh parliamentary constituency, here, Wednesday.

He was responding to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that Umno should practise meritocracy in choosing candidates for the coming general election by including professionals and intellectuals in order to ensure victory for Barisan Nasional.

The former Umno president said the party had not been giving the opportunity to outsiders because the divisional members themselves did not support such candidates, but they should realise that victory would be determined by voters and not by Umno members alone.

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