

Umno To Utilise 66-Year Experience To Achieve Nation's Aspirations
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 (Bernama) -- Come this May 11, Umno, which has represented the Malay community, will celebrate its 66th year since its inception into Malaysian politics, helping the nation to achieve independence, and bringing many successes, changes and transformations for the betterment of the nation along the way.

Umno has amassed nearly 3.5 million members in more than 19,200 branches nationwide to make it the largest political party in Malaysia.

The history and experience should not be forgotten, according to Puteri Umno Chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, especially by the youth today, as without it, Umno would not be as strong as it is today.

"History is also a platform to look back at our past mistakes and to rectify them. In these 66 years, Umno has faced many bitter challenges but nevertheless it has succeeded in overcoming them, maturing the party in the process," she told Bernama here.

Rosnah, who is also Deputy Health Minister, said that as a young leader, she and Puteri Umno will ensure the party will continue to be relevant and supported by the people through various efforts and activities as and when it is suitable.

Not being engrossed in its past glories and its willingness to adapt through the ages without ignoring its core endeavour for the Malay people is one of the reasons which still makes Umno relevant and appear fresh in the eyes of the public.

"As long as we make changes and fulfill the people's needs, we will stay relevant. The 66 years of experience is Umno's symbol of strength and maturity," said Umno Youth Deputy Chief Datuk Razali Ibrahim.

"We have gone through many bittersweet occasions and no one can deny Umno's and even Barisan Nasional's endeavour and service for the people. We will utilise this experience to harness the proper energy and workforce according to the times to continue developing the nation," he said.

Razali, who is also Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, said that in every era of Umno's leadership, appropriate transformation to achieve the people's aspirations was always carried out, covering all aspects of peoples' lives.

Zainab Yusoff, a grassroots Umno member, praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for facing current challenges by taking to the field and clarifying issues with the public with true wisdom. "This clearly shows a people first attitude," she said.

For Umno veteran Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, the experience of unity within the Malays in Umno is very appealing to him, especially to see all the Malay people reuniting as they did against the Malayan Union in 1946.

He is confident that the Malays, as well as all Malaysians would benefit from Umno when the party's experience to administer the country could continue to be strengthened and

enhanced into the future.

It is also Umno President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's wish that Umno remains strongly united and continue to be strengthened by avoiding unhealthy competition among members or any negative behaviour.

He is reported to have said that as a long standing party, Umno's service has undoubtedly been huge, but the voters today will not look at past glories but rather look at Umno's current and future endeavours.

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