

**More Young People Needed As Candidates In General Election**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) - Leaders of youth bodies and the public believe that more young candidates should be fielded in the 13th general election (GE13).

They agreed at least 40 percent of young people should be given the chance to contest as the survival of political parties lies with the young generation.

Pemikir Muda Malaysia president Mohd Rafiq Naizamohideen is confident that Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will field 40 percent or more young candidates.

"In line with the rise in young voters to 5.5 million or 42 percent of the 13.3 million voters, they hope to see more young candidates who can meet their aspirations.

"I'm sure BN will field candidates who meet the desire of young voters without compromising the credibility of candidates and give victory for BN."

Mohd Rafiq is confident BN will retain old candidates with good track record to continue the survival of BN as a relevant party in leading the government.

Chairman of Titiwangsa Tamil Youth Council, V.Ilavarasan said young candidates could interact more easily with young voters via the social media.

"We want young candidates to convey the message and voice of young people to the top level," said the voter in Segambut parliamentary constituency.

President of National Association of Muslim Students, Ahmad Fahmi Mohd Shamsuddin said picking more young candidates is a must as the young must be represented.

"Since young voters will decide the leadership, more such candidates are welcomed. However, a winnable candidate must not be taken lightly," he said.

Teacher Shafie Abdullah, 37, said the fielding of more young candidates by BN is the best strategy to attract votes from young people.

"Young people use information technology to get closer to the community while the old have their own means to reach out to the people. A combination of new and old will certainly create an interesting scenario," he added.

Journalist Allison Lai, 30, said the percentage of young and old candidates should be balanced as they can work together to attract and convince voters.

"Young candidates may be more passionate to serve the people but the old candidates can provide guidance.

Online entrepreneur Roslinawati Misdi, 33, yearns to see more young women fielded as candidates in the general election.

"The Prime Minister said more women candidates will be fielded in the general election.

There are many in the Puteri Umno rank who can be promoted as candidates," she said.

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