

Kelantan UMNO Divisional Leaders Told To Identify Young Second-Liners
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KOTA BAHARU, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- UMNO divisional leaders in Kelantan are Saturday told to identify young people with potential to be trained as second liners in their respective divisions.

State UMNO liaison chairman Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the selected young people should represent the ulama, as well as professionals, so that their leadership could be accepted by the community.

"One day, we hope they will be the icons who can attract support from the people," he told reporters after chairing the state UMNO liaison meeting in Kota Bharu.

Mustapa said early planning to produce credible second liners was crucial for the people to always see UMNO having a new image and with a strong struggle.

Kelantan UMNO, he said, was making early preparation for the 14th general election with various programmes on the line, including seminars, enhancing UMNO's involvement in the social media and forging links with voters outside the state.

Meanwhile, Mustapa, who is also Kelantan Federal Development Action Council chairman, said the role of the Federal Village Development and Security Committees in the state would be enhanced with young leaders to be appointed to replace those with health problems.

In JOHOR, the Kluang divisional chief, Md Jais Sardey, who is also state education, entrepreneur development and cooperatives committee chairman, will be challenged by his deputy, Radzali Mohd Noor at the coming party elections in October.

Radzali, who claimed to be getting the support of the grassroots, said he wanted to strengthen the division and the Kluang parliamentary area, following the results of the 13th General Election (GE13).

"The Kluang parliamentary area needs a serious shot in the arm, if seen from the result of the GE13 which saw the parliamentary seat and one of two state seats falling to the opposition," he told reporters in Kluang, Saturday.

"As such, I feel it is time for Kluang UMNO and Barisan Nasional (BN) to be reinvigorated to enable them to approach the people and solve whatever issues to get youths to support BN," said the retired teacher.

At GE13, DAP's Liew Chin Tong won the Kluang parliamentary seat while Johor DAP Youth chief Tan Hong Pin retained the Mengkibol state seat.

Meanwhile, in IPOH, Perak, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Hasan Malek, said the existing election process in UMNO needed to be maintained to ensure the party remained strong.

"All UMNO members can offer to contest the post (vice-president)...let the members decide who they want (as vice presidents)," he told reporters after visiting Shahida Yahaya, 27, a

ministry staff who was injured in her legs and hands in a road accident on Aug 6.

He suggested that UMNO president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin not be opposed at UMNO's polls scheduled to be held in October.

In KUALA LUMPUR, it has been suggested that all menteris besar and chief ministers should not offer to contest for UMNO Supreme Council posts because of the opportunity to be appointed to such posts by the party president.

UMNO Veterans Club secretary Datuk Mustapha Yaakub said they should also not offer themselves to contest for the vice-president posts because they were needed in their respective states to strengthen the party.

He said the vice-president posts were more suited for ministers at federal level because their portfolios were meant to look after the whole country.

"Such posts (vice-president) are probably apt if given to those not holding any post in the government, if they are capable of serving," he told Bernama.

Mustapha said the capabilities of the menteris besar and chief ministers in administering UMNO at state-level, and their success during the 13th General Election should not be used as a ticket to vie for the three top posts in the party.

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