

**Hishammuddin Hopes For Smooth UMNO Elections**  
**Bernama**  
**11 Oct, 2013**

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein hopes for smooth election process of the party's Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings on Saturday.

He said he was so far satisfied with the running of the delegates' meetings at the branch level nationwide which were conducted in the family spirit.

"There has been no big issue of disparaging fellow candidates. This shows the wisdom and maturity of the party grassroots.

"I hope the historic party elections this time will be smooth because after this we will be facing our real political enemies in the run-up to the Sungai Limau state seat by-election and the 14th General Election, " he said.

Hishammuddin, who is also Defence Minister, said this after opening the National Sovereignty, Security and Prosperity Carnival, in Kota Baharu, Friday.

He urged the UMNO headquarters to ensure that all the 150,000 delegates could orderly, comfortably and smoothly carry out their responsibility.

In SEMPORNA, another UMNO vice-president, Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said UMNO and Barisan Nasional needed experienced and tested leaders, besides they being able to unite all in the community, in facing the 14th General Election which would even be more challenging.

"I believe the UMNO elections this time will not only be keenly watched by the party members but by Malaysians in general and the more than 13 million voters out there," he said after meeting with community leaders.

Shafie, who is also Rural and Regional Development Minister, said the current UMNO leadership was already experienced and able to overcome the various hurdles and challenges under the leadership of party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He admitted that UMNO required transformation and rejuvenation. "However, it should not necessarily be done by changing the leadership now but through various approaches as introduced by Najib, that is, transformation within the party," he added.

Shafie said the internal political transformation was far better as it strengthened the party and not caused disunity.

He was confident that if the delegates gave him the mandate again to hold the vice-president post, he would be able to assist Najib in making the political transformation in UMNO a success.

--BERNAMA  
Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=985108>