

**Zahid warns of enemies out to destroy Umno**  
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**BY MD IZWAN**

As the Umno leadership moved to resolve its state government crisis in Terengganu after three members turned independent legislators, the party's senior vice-president urged leaders in the state to be wary of enemies bent on destroying the party.

Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (pic) reminded Umno that the party's interests should always come first after former Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said resigned and quit the party, with two other assemblymen following suit.

However, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim had said last night that of the three who had initially declared themselves as independents in the assembly, Bukit Besi assemblyman Roslee Daud had returned to Umno's fold.

Even with Roslee's return, Umno Terengganu is still in a crisis as the state assembly now comprised an equal number of representatives from the Barisan Nasional (BN) and Pakatan Rakyat.

"The interests (of the party) should always come before other interests. Do not allow elements of destruction from enemies inside and outside the party to overwhelm our political judgment," said Zahid in a statement today.

BN holds 15 seats to PAS's 14, while PKR has one seat and the two independents complete the assembly.

"Umno Terengganu must be prepared for anything to happen in this current political climate.

"The loyalty of Umno grassroots members will be put to the test," said Zahid, who is also Home Minister.

Ahmad Said's move triggered a state crisis, as PAS, which holds 14 seats in the state assembly, announced it would call for an emergency sitting to hold a vote of no-confidence in BN.

PAS is said to want the state assembly dissolved to pave the way for a fresh state election.

But newly-appointed Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Razis Abd Rahman had said that the state assembly would not be dissolved, despite the on-going turmoil, as the assemblymen who had turned independent had yet to formally notify the state assembly of their decisions.

State Legal Adviser Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid had also said that BN still remained the ruling coalition in Terengganu, despite having lost the majority.

Ahmad Said, who had the support of several groups in Umno, was sworn in as menteri besar in March 2008, even though Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh was the party's choice for the top position.

Idris was later appointed Education Minister II in Najib's cabinet.

Last year, the Election Commission (EC) said during the Kuala Besut

by-election that they could not intervene in Terengganu if the state assembly was hung should BN win by a small margin.

The EC had said that it was up to the political parties to settle the problem.

Earlier today, another Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal said Ahmad Said should have gracefully stepped down from the post, as it was part of an understanding reached with the party's top leadership last year.

Shafie said Ahmad Said was sworn in as menteri besar on May 9 last year amid strong opposition from state representatives and party grassroots.

"At that time the political situation in Terengganu was quite precarious. There were some who agreed (to Ahmad Said continuing as the menteri besar) and there were some who disagreed.

"To avoid the situation from worsening, it was agreed between the prime minister and Ahmad Said that he would remain in his position for one year," Shafie was further quoted as saying in the New Straits Times. – May 14, 2014.

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