

BN, Umno losing support due to 'syok sendiri' attitude
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Umno vice president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Umno and Barisan Nasional are losing ground support even among the Malays because they had become 'syok sama sendiri' (self-glorifying).

He said never have they thought there would one day be Malays, who used to hate parties viewed as anti-Malay, supporting the parties.

"Never had we thought there will be Malay women in headscarves, who used to hate a party that is against us, now supporting those multi-racial parties that supposedly are not chauvinistic against certain races.

"They even invite others from the Generation Y to join those parties," he told delegates at the Bayan Baru Umno division meeting, which he launched in Penang this morning.

Zahid, who is deputy prime minister, said they were once supporters of nationalism, but are now supporting liberalism.

He said those involved also used culture and well-known figures to influence other Malays to support them, without naming the opposition party.

"Why is this happening? It is because we in Umno and BN have become 'alpa' (negligent), 'syok sama sendiri' (self-glorifying), happy with our positions and air-conditioned offices.

"Bangkit la (wake up), Umno and BN. The time to be comfortable has ended. We must move forward and progress," he said.

Zahid, who is also home minister, reminded the delegates that the problem with the party and the BN coalition was not that they were vulnerable to outside forces.

He said they were difficult to split from the outside, but easy from the inside.

"What is happening to us is the effort to disunite us (from inside)... We may celebrate and allow differences in opinion, just as how Islam allows it.

"But there must be 'tatasusila' (ethics or decency), 'ketertiban' (decorum), and effort to save another's 'air muka' (face), even if there is a difference in opinion.

"The approach should be 'yes sir, I agree with you, but I think I have to show my differences by suggesting that something is not right' or by saying something like 'Sir, I beg to differ that you are wrong'. That is the kind of approach we need to have," he said.

Zahid urged the party to change its approach if it wanted to remain relevant, especially during a time when people were exposed to all sorts of information, including slanderous ones, at just a touch of a finger.

The task might be difficult, he said, but they must move forward together with the party leaderships at both federal and state levels.

Umno and BN were 'shaken' earlier last week with the sacking of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy prime minister, and the removal of several ministers from the cabinet.

Muhyiddin had recently openly questioned and criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak over his handling of the the 1Malaysia Development Berhad scandal. – August 2, 2015.

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