

**Mutuality Between Top And Bottom Leaders In UMNO Important - Ahmad Zahid
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KENINGAU, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Mutuality between UMNO's top and bottom leaders is important to ensure that each leader understands his or her responsibilities, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, here, today.

He said the party leaders at each level had certain roles entrusted to them in ensuring the people's wants and needs were fulfilled.

"We must know our own position. We must place ourselves in that respective position to avoid conflicts at all levels.

"If I am the number two person (as deputy prime minister), I too must know my tasks as the number two. I cannot make a hole in the vessel (government) as I want the captain (prime minister) to steer the ship (government) well."

Ahmad Zahid, who is also UMNO vice-president, said this when simultaneously opening the Keningau and Pensiangan UMNO delegates' meetings.

He also reminded UMNO leaders at all levels that the posts given to them were temporary and that they should use this opportunity to carry out their tasks with full responsibility.

"As a branch, divisional or top leaders in the party, we need to remember our responsibilities to the 'rakyat' (people) so that UMNO would continue to be of service to them," he said.

Ahmad Zahid also pledged to serve as a bridge to solving whatever problems faced by Sabah UMNO.

He said differences of opinion in the party were a normal thing, but should be resolved so that it would not prolong to the point of Sabah falling into the hands of the opposition.

Ahmad Zahid also announced an allocation of RM1 million each for the development of Putatan, Keningau and Pensiangan in appreciation of the hard work put in by the respective elected representatives, always going to the ground in serving the constituents.

Keningau UMNO division chief Datuk Sairin Karno, in his speech, said he was confident that the party leadership under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak could counter the vicious attacks against UMNO over various issues.

He said the challenges faced by UMNO were an opportunity for all members to learn lessons and engage in self-reflection for the good of the party.

Sairin said Keningau was solidly behind Najib as party president while the division would

also support Ahmad Zahid's nomination for the post of deputy president in the next party elections.

"We have no hesitation to support them as our main objective is to ensure the survival of UMNO as the pillar of the government," he added.

Sairin also proposed to the deputy prime minister for the building of a tunnel as an alternative passage from Apin-Apin in Keningau to Tambunan, Putatan and Tuaran.

Earlier, Pensiangan UMNO chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Yassin also pledged the division's full support for the party's leadership.

He hoped the inaccuracies and untruths spread by the social media on issues would be tackled immediately.

Abdul Ghani also proposed to Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, to increase the number of policemen and beef up the security logistics in Nabawan, including setting up a security control post at the Kalabakan-Sapulut road.

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