

Zahid urges reporters to influence Chinese, Indians to vote BN
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By Anisah Shukry

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today urged reporters covering the Puchong Umno division meeting to convince Chinese and Indians to vote Barisan Nasional (BN) in the 14th general election.

Officiating the meeting, the deputy prime minister said the reporters' presence in the hall proved that Chinese and Indians did not hate the ruling coalition.

"Right now they are not convinced by us. They don't hate us that much. If you don't believe me, ask the reporters. They don't hate us. If they hate us, they wouldn't have come here, am I right?" Zahid said, gesturing towards the pressmen at the side of the hall.

Addressing the vernacular media, he said, "Please change the minds of the Chinese and Indian voters to vote for BN in the next general election."

The Umno vice-president's request was met with loud applause.

"Because our approach is better than the current government of Selangor," added Zahid after the applause died down.

BN lost the prized Selangor government to the opposition in 2008 and despite its massive effort at the last elections failed to wrest it back.

The Pakatan Rakyat coalition was soon born after it had wrested the state.

Though the PR no longer exists, PKR continues to lead the state with the support of DAP and PAS.

Zahid said Indians and Chinese remained unconvinced by BN because of the party's infighting and the "the culture of hatred" being cultivated among voters.

"Why are the Chinese and the Indian support going down? This may be because of the culture of hatred being cultivated towards Umno-BN.

"Why? Are they right that we are wrong? Do we have so many weaknesses? Are we so bad? I don't think so."

Zahid said to combat the hatred, Umno must expose the flaws of the state government at every turn.

"Don't be afraid to reveal the bad side of others, for the sake of Selangor folk's interests.

"When we get it (wrong), they whack us daily, every second. Not just their cyber troopers, but even our own cyber troopers whack us."

He also urged Umno not to rely on money and projects, saying that were not the main factor that would contribute to victory at elections.

In the 13th general election, BN lost eight Selangor seats, while PAS gained seven seats and DAP gained two.

This was despite Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib's appointment as the Selangor BN election chief in 2013. – August 31, 2015.

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