



Deputy Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (right) speaking at the Civil Defence Students Corps 15th National Graduation Ceremony at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, yesterday.

BERNAMA PIC

'Different strategy needed for Mahkota by-election'

BATU PAHAT: Barisan Nasional, particularly Umno, will not use the same approach in the Neng-giri polls for the Mahkota by-election next month.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said although the party won Saturday's polls with a bigger majority, the political landscape and demography in Mahkota differed significantly from Nenggiri.

He said there were 66,000 voters in Mahkota with different profiles, as well as 4,000 military personnel and 400 police voters.

"We know the electorate in Mahkota is predominantly young, with 52 per cent of voters aged 39 and below. I am confi-

dent that with the strength of the machinery and efforts from the central, state, and division levels, we can strengthen campaign efforts here."

Zahid, who is also deputy prime minister, said this after officiating the Civil Defence Students Corps 15th National Graduation Ceremony at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, yesterday.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abd Kadir and Civil Defence Force chief commissioner Datuk Aminurrahim Mohamed.

Zahid also announced Onn

Hafiz — who is Johor Umno liaison chief — as the Mahkota by-election director, with Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan as his deputy.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin was appointed as BN operations room chief, with former Mahkota state assemblyman and Kluang Umno division chief Datuk Mohd Jais Sarday as operations director.

When asked about BN's candidate for the by-election, Zahid said the party had a list of potential names, but they had not yet been shortlisted.

"*Insyallah*, we will discuss it with the state and division leaders."