

## Ex-Umno members welcome to return, says Labuan Chief

LABUAN: Labuan Umno is not ruling out the possibility of some former Umno members rejoining the party in view of the different political landscape now, said its Chief, Senator Datuk Bashir Alias.

"We cannot rule out the possibility of our former members rejoining us...we in Labuan Umno do not practise political revenge and our doors are still open to those who had abandoned us," he said, Saturday.

Bashir said the solidarity of Labuan Umno had remained intact despite the defections of several leaders and members to the Pakatan Harapan (PH) side when the latter was the ruling federal government.

He said Umno members had continued to give their strong support to the party leadership and its struggle during the political turmoil of the past.

"We must admit that being in the opposition bloc for the past 22 months was not as easy as we thought," he told a press conference at his house here.

He said Labuan Umno was now focusing on reorganising its machinery and membership.

Labuan Umno Secretary Mohd Dzulfaizal Ab Manan said the division now has 9,140 members, compared to than 10,000 previously.

"In Umno's efforts to continue the spirit of the struggle in the present and future, its members must pursue the spirit of continuing to fight and serve the people despite having no political position," Bashir said.

He believed the Umno's victory in five by-elections marked the resurgence of Umno not only in Labuan but in the country as a whole.

Meanwhile, Labuan Umno's top agenda was now on the people's wellbeing to get those who had been affected by the previous movement restrictions to bounce back to



Bashir with Labuan Umno leaders at the press conference.

improve their livelihoods.

"As the Minister of Federal Territories had given relaxations to those wanting to start business without having to worry about license and government-owned premises monthly rental waiver to the existing hawkers at UTC Building Pasar Sentral...and now, Labuan Umno's role is to complement the initiatives," he said.