Choose to safeguard your freedom, says Ahmad Zahid

SHAH ALAM: The people must choose between transformasi and reformasi to safeguard their rights and freedom, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the Opposition was trying to hoodwink the people by criticising the Government and the good it has done.

"Unlike reformasi, transformasi looks at ways to reinforce the Constitution, such as standing up for Malay rights, the Malay Rulers and the Malay language," he told a gathering of lecturers and administration staff of the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) here yesterday.

Dr Ahmad Zahid spoke on the challenges and role of the Government in the country’s transformation plans.

Explaining the Government Transformation Plan (GTP), he said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had instructed civil servants to give better service to the rakyat.

"For instance, it used to take a month to make a passport – now it takes only an hour.

“At my ministry, all 2,400 inmates who were sent to five rehabilitation centres during the last session in March last year never returned to prison after they were freed.

“This shows the GTP worked 100%," said Dr Ahmad Zahid, who cited freedom of the press as among the benefits people now enjoy.

“In the past, Opposition newspapers like Harakah and Suara Keadilan were limited in their circulation to just party members.

“But now, these newspapers are available to the public," he said, lamenting that such efforts by the Government were belittled by the Opposition and had led to the existence of pro-establishment and anti-establishment groups."