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Najib-Leadership

NAJIB REFUSES TO COMMENT ON LEADERSHIP AMBITION

By: Neville D'Cruz

MELBOURNE, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Dato Seri Najib Tun Razak today refused to comment on speculation over his prime ministerial ambition.

When asked: "Would you consider standing for prime ministership when the time comes"

Najib burst into laughter (which lasted for several seconds) and said: "No, I can't answer that question."

He said it was a direct question, adding "You don't waste much time".

The encounter took place soon after Najib emerged from a closed-door one-and-a-half hour dialogue session with about 220 Malaysian students at the RMIT University here today.

Najib, who is here to deliver the keynote address at the launch of the Interact Asia Pacific Festival tomorrow, briefed the students on the economic and political situation in Malaysia.

He defended the Malaysian Government's latest currency regulations and financial measures to help stabilise the economy. "They are not for the isolation of the Malaysian economy, but insulating us from outside forces," he said.

Najib is reported to have told the students that the whole Cabinet and Umno Supreme Council backed the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad completely and believed in all his actions.

He said Malaysia was moving into unchartered territory and the whole world was watching the country. "We can make it work provided we have political stability," he is quoted as saying.

Najib told Bernama he was impressed by the students' interest in what was happening in Malaysia.

"They were open, direct and not antagonistic and were willing to hear what I had to say."

Also present at Najib's meeting with the students were the Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia, Datuk Adnan Othman, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah and MDC executive Dr Norsaidatul Akmar.

Last night, Najib was guest of honour at the Australia Multimedia Industry Awards dinner when he presented the Best Young Adult Award to an Australian IT/multimedia company.

Tomorrow, he will address the Malaysian Multimedia Super Corridor investors' conference to coincide with the Asia Pacific multimedia and IT festival, the biggest in the southern hemisphere.

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