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`Time for Umno to go on offensive'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - It is time for Umno to go on the offensive.

Instead of merely reacting to attacks by the Opposition all the time, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today that the party should inform the people of the Opposition's hidden agenda.

He said each time the Opposition brought up an issue, Umno would have to react and the time had come for Umno to take the offensive stance.

For example, he said DAP which had all this while been playing on racial issues had suddenly switched its tactics to issues of justice and human rights.

"These are all merely ploys to confuse the people at a time when the election is nearing," he said when asked to comment on a statement by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that Umno would launch an immediate large scale campaign to counter lies and slander by the Opposition.

Najib said the people should not be taken in by these tactics and instead should look beyond the Opposition's strategies.

He said Pas also had its own agenda but was trying to hide it by collaborating with DAP and other Opposition parties on the basis of fighting for the rights of the people.

On the student demonstration at Universiti Malaya on Friday, Najib, who is also Education Minister, said the ministry was still waiting for a report from the university.

He said demonstrations were not the proper means to voice dissatisfaction; neither was it the way to hand over a memorandum.

"There are ample avenues for a person to speak out and the leaders themselves are more than willing to listen," he said, adding that the students must learn to realise that such actions would only disrupt unity and lead to unrest.

However, he expressed confidence that the silent majority of students were responsible and appreciative of all the Government had done.

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