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Najib-Umno

UMNO SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR ELECTION SEASON TO COUNTER OPPOSITION LIES

PEKAN, July 16 (Bernama) -- Umno must go on the offensive from now and not wait till the election season to explain the party's struggles and current issues to the people, its vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the move was crucial to counter the endless lies and twisting of facts by the Opposition.

"We cannot wait till the general election was round the corner but instead launch a comprehensive counter-attack programme even though in small groups," he told reporters after opening a gathering to debate Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's opening and closing address at the party's 54th General Assembly in May.

Najib said Umno members must start working three to four years before the general election to ensure the party's victory and not at the last minute.

He said the party's speakers at ceramahs must convey the truth to the masses unlike opposition campaigners who were clever to twist facts.

"We should have more speakers at the grassroots level. Our people are not trained to make up stories to cheat the people. They only tell the truth," said Najib, who is Defence Minister.

He said each Umno division should have 20 to 30 core speakers who are well-versed with current issues and campaign strategies to talk to the people.

These speakers could also help speakers from other divisions who are less competent in countering opposition attacks besides exchanging ideas and strategies with them, he said.

Najib said there are speakers at the grassroots level but their number was inadequate.

He said training programmes for speakers at divisional level are being drawn up apart from programmes initiated by Umno Information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

-- BERNAMA

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