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Umno-Reaction (Leaders)

DR M EXPOSES MALAYS TO BIGGER CHALLENGES AHEAD, SAYS NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants to expose the Malays to the elements of keen competition to spur them to achieve bigger successes in future, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tunl Razak said.

He, however, said the Malays need not worry as the strategy to expose them to the competition would not be to the extent of jeopardising their rights and interests.

"The time has come for the Malays to be exposed to the competition to prepare them for the challenges in the current globalisation era, he said when commenting on the presidential address at the 56th Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

Dr Mahathir, in his policy speech, reminded the Malays that political power would not guarantee their safety and they should improve their competitive edge in all fields.

"The message wished to be conveyed by the president is that Umno is an organisation that can bring changes to the Malays and their cultures towards achieving greater success," he said.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein described Dr Mahathir's views as realistic and must be accepted.

He, however, said efforts to bring about changes among the Malays to face the challenges must be carried out with firmness.

"This is because the scope of Umno's struggles was wider and not confined to the race, religion and country alone," he said.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said although Dr Mahathir said that he had failed to bring success to the Malays, the prime minister had actually done a lot for the Malays.

"We deny he has failed. He has succeeded, it's only we do not want his successes to be negated by the Malays who do not value what we have achieved," he said.

Rafidah said Dr Mahathir need not apologise for feeling that he had failed to achieve the objective of making the Malays a successful race as what he said about the Malays' weaknesses was the truth.

Another vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Malays had succeeded to a certain extent but they should step up efforts to progress further to enable them to face challenges of the borderless world including changing their mindset.

-- BERNAMA

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