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Umno-Winding (Najib)

NAJIB CHIDES UMNO MEMBERS INSTIGATING LEADERS TO CONTEST TOP POSTS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today took a swipe at Umno members who publicly support calls that there be no jostling for posts but quietly instigate leaders to contest.

"It is Umno people themselves who applaud when the president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) says there should be no contest, but those who clap loudly are also the ones instigating us to fight.

"There are also people who come to me and say, 'Datuk fight, Datuk fight,'" he said when winding up the debate on the presidential address at the 54th Umno General Assembly here.

Najib said he would always support Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in his choice of his deputy when Abdullah takes over the reins of the party and the government.

"I would like to take the opportunity to state at this auspicious assembly my stand and attitude that when the time comes, we should let YAB Pak Lah decide on the choice of his deputy.

"I will accept it, and in fact we should all accept whomever is picked by YAB Pak Lah," he said.

Najib said Umno members should defend this tradition because it was a wise practice.

"It is one of the most noble traditions in the party and such wisdom should be defended by Umno members," he said.

Najib said Dr Mahathir had told him before that if Umno members truly loved the party president, they should heed his advice.

He also assured Abdullah that the deputy prime minister would receive the full support of all Umno members when he took over the helm of the party and the government.

"YAB Pak Lah, you can be assured that all the party members and I would give full support and loyalty to YAB Pak Lah to continue leading the country, party and race towards excellence," he said.

"YAB Pak Lah, when the boat is in the water, when the oar is in hand, when the compass is ready, you just steer the heritage of the race to the best of your ability. We will all definitely be with you," he said.

In expressing his appreciation to the prime minister, Najib said although Dr Mahathir did not want the tabling of any motion to pay tribute to him, the fact is that Dr Mahathir was the "Architect of Modern Malaysia, Reformist of Malay Minds and Spokesman of the Third World".

-- BERNAMA

NM KHY ROS YBY