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Najib-Leaders

LONG-SERVING LEADERS SHOULD CONSIDER STEPPING DOWN, SAYS NAJIB

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Long-serving leaders in the Barisan Nasional (BN) should consider stepping down to make way for new and younger ones, said Umno Vice-President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said it wouldn't do them any good to stay on longer as it would affect the party's performance and well-being in the eyes of the people.

Speaking to reporters during lunch break at the 10th Organisation Of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit here, Najib, who is Defence Minister, said this was more in tune with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reminder that leaders were not "indispensable".

"This issue carries too much polemics, especially on the real definition of veteran which is still not clear as it has different meanings to different people.

"If we call them veterans, there will be some who will feel offended. So, the way I see it, if you can no longer contribute to the party, it's better to step down. But if you feel you can still contribute that is up to you and the party to decide," he said.

Najib was commenting on Dr Mahathir's call to long-serving leaders to step down during an exclusive interview with Bernama on Tuesday.

In the interview, the Prime Minister, who is also Umno President, said long-serving leaders should make way for new leaders and contribute to the party in other ways, such as assisting younger leaders to campaign during elections.

Meanwhile in KUALA LUMPUR, MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he would carry on leading the party for as long as MIC members wanted him to.

"It all depends on the party members because it is their right," he said when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's call.

Samy, who is also Works Minister, said he retained the MIC Presidency uncontested last March 8 and will continue to lead the party for as long as he was needed.

On his position in the Cabinet, Samy said it was the prerogative of the Prime Minister.

--BERNAMA

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