

MP: Absent 'captain' Najib has completely lost his bearings

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak must pluck up "his courage" and deliver the reforms he has been promising before and after the 13th general election instead of "quietly conceding to Umno hardliners", said Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua.

tony pua yeo bee yin crime police 160613"Malaysians are asking, 'where is our prime minister?' The are beginning to wonder if he has gone into hiding to avoid having to confront the difficult controversies engulfing the country.

"The nation is like a rudderless ship crying out for a leader to put his foot down, and yet what Malaysians are getting are feuding first officers in the absence of their captain," he said in a statement.

Pua said Najib, who has presented himself as a reformist to all Malaysians, "appears to have completely lost his bearings" and instead must cease keeping silent over various controversies which have arisen.

Such issues include the debate over the intent, or lack thereof, to repeal the Sedition Act 1948 and Emergency Ordinance (EO) which Najib himself announced in 2011.

"He has let the new Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi go on a rampage in blaming the repeal of the Emergency Ordinance by Najib himself, for the apparent rise in crime."

Another issue, which he claimed has become an embarrassment for the ruling BN, is the "squabbling" over the tabling of the controversial Administration of Islamic Law (Federal Territories) Amendment Bill 2013 which allowed for the conversion of an underaged child to a Muslim by a single parent.

He pointed out that Najib, too, did nothing to check "extremist elements in Umno and BN, particularly via their mouthpiece, Utusan Malaysia" and failed to weigh in on the raging debate over the need to set up the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) to address custodial death cases.

"The problems Malaysians face today will not go away quietly if he were to remain tongue-tied.

"Instead he will lose not only the confidence of ordinary Malaysians, but even that of his own political party.

"We call upon Najib to pick up his courage and demonstrate his political will in ensuring that Malaysia remains on the path to reforms and transformation has he has promised," Pua said.

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