

Shahrizat: We laud Dr M, but Najib's our man
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Amid stinging criticism by former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak could find comfort in the embrace of Wanita Umno, which today declared its undivided support.

In a statement today, Wanita Umno chief Shahrizat Abdul Jalil (below) said that although the wing "lauds" Mahathir for his countless contributions, it is now time to side with Najib instead.

"Our support is based on Najib's vision and wisdom in understanding today's political, economic and social demands and landscape, to ensure that Malaysia remains democratic, peaceful, developing and respected globally.

"Najib has kept the higher values of democracy and justice at the forefront of his administration," she said.

Shahrizat, who resigned from Najib's cabinet over the National Feedlot Corporation scandal, added that Najib should be commended for keeping things in order despite incessant attacks by the opposition.

Nevertheless, she said Mahathir's advice is appreciated and urged Mahathir and Najib to take advantage of their close relationship to further strengthen Umno and BN.

Shahrizat's statement comes after Federal Territories Umno Youth chief Mohd Razlan Muhammad Rafii defended Najib by saying the prime minister faced far greater challengers compared to his predecessors.

Mohd Razlan (right), in a statement, said the burden and challenges Najib had to shoulder are bigger, resulting in him being more cautious so as the results would not burden us all.

"The calamity facing the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17 is a big challenge not only for the PM but also the people, in addition to the mystery surrounding the disappearance of MH370."

"It cannot be denied that the challenges faced by Najib, the country's sixth PM, are greater and come in various forms which are unexpected. This is in addition to modern communication which cannot be curbed and resulting in the spread of news and slander which may lower the PM's spirit," he said.

Razlan said Najib had brought about a new change to the party where as president, he had decentralised the voting power of 2,500 delegates to curb money politics by widening the

voting base.

The people, he said, can evaluate that the PM is trying hard to rectify past mistakes by the Malays and this is as a result of the irresponsibility of those who have sidelined the interests of the people.

Razlan further listed down Najib's contributions that included economic growth, handling the rising costs faced by the people, and affordable housing.

The FT Umno Youth's response follows mounting criticism on Najib by Mahathir, where the country's longest serving PM described Najib as being worse than Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

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