

Ku Nan: Najib not giving money for Umno support

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By Kow Gah Chie

Umno secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (below) has refuted allegations that party president Najib Abdul Razak has resorted to another solidarity gathering come Sunday in another bid to shore up flagging support for him.

"Yes, we will having a ceremony on May 11. But we are (celebrating) Hari Umno (Umno Day) as this is Umno's birthday," he said

"We will have a supreme council meeting in the afternoon and a prayer session in the evening," he told Malaysiakini.

Umno will be praying for past leaders as well as for the future of this multi-racial country, he said.

"The prime minister will be giving a speech and we anticipate a 2,500 strong turnout," said Tengku Adnan, adding: "So, what's all mthe fuss about this?" he asked.

The coming May 11 meeting btween the prime minister and Umno divisional leaders was brought to public attention by former NSTP group editor A Kadir Jasin, who claimed in a blog post that the event was designed to show Umno solidarity with Najib.

Previously on March 8, Najib had also met with leaders of 160 out of the 191 Umno divisions during which he briefed them on the beleaguered 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) amongst other issues.

Special allocation for non-MPs

Tengku Adnan, who is also federal territories minister, also denied that Najib will be handing out financial allocations to 60 division chiefs each who are not elected representatives.

"No such thing. This is just rumour." he said.

Kadir had claimed that about 60 Umno division leaders who werenot MPs would be given a special allocation of RM500,000 during the May 11 meeting.

Najib is seen as fortifying support for him in the midst of constant attacks by former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is citing the controversial 1MDB, Najib's family lavish lifestyle and the brutal murder of Mongolian national Altantuya Shaariibuu as reasons for Najib to step down.

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