

PM: S'wak Report cannot decide M'sia's leader

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By Radzi Razak

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak sees red over Sarawak Report's news about Putrajaya's alleged scandals including 1MDB, vowing he will not to allow 'foreigners' decide on Malaysia's leader.

"There are also problems in the 22 years I served under (former prime minister) Tun Mahathir (Mohamad), but it has not happened like this.

"Everything blew up in the Sarawak Report as though the foreigners are determining our country's leader.

"I cannot stand it, ladies and gentleman. I can't let white people - the foreigners - to determine our future. What is their right (to do so)?" he shouted to more than 400 delegates at the Seremban Umno annual general meeting today.

The delegates responded in unison, in support of Najib's vitriolic speech, with a few cries of 'Hidup Melayu' (Long Live the Malays) heard.

In his half-an-hour speech, Najib reminded the importance of loyalty to the party and praised the loyalty and support given by Negeri Sembilan Umno.

He told the first AGM he officiated this year that he valued "loyalty" more than "smart" people.

"There are many people who consider themselves to have calibre.

"But it is rare to find someone who has loyalty. Smart people... there are plenty of them," he said.

Last Tuesday, Najib dropped Muhyiddin Yassin (photo) from the deputy prime minister and education minister posts after the latter's speech criticising 1MDB scandal at the Cheras division AGM.

Najib said he is willing to face any criticism and had even confronted disagreements from his man but not in public as a ship should only have one, not two captains.

"I am okay with criticism and disagreements, but it must be done behind closed doors. It is okay even if we are having arguments, but not to the point of throwing chairs to one another. We can even bang tables but we don't do it outside," he said.

Ironically, he chose to illustrate his point by pointing out to opposition politicians who stood by former deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim even when he was being convicted for a

crime.

"They have all kind of leaders, even those who are caught on videos. Still they defended their leader. Why (do they do that)? Because they know they must stand united," he said.

Projects for Umno members

Najib also reminded the Seremban division how he was always there to help Umno members, including granting projects and get them out of trouble, such as bankruptcy.

"Don't say you don't know me. How many people I have helped already? I don't want to bring it up.

"Those who have difficulties or trapped, I also helped. To avert the by-election. He was the one who do business but I was the one who helped him," he said, possibly referring to Lenggeng state assemblyperson Ishak Ismail who was declared bankrupt on May 13 this year.

Najib also said that he brought RM5 million worth of projects every year to the division to help the "poor Umno members".

"During my time, I was the one who helped the division the most. RM5 million worth of projects per year for Umno members.

"There are struggling and poor Umno members too. Not all are rich," he added.