

**Najib apologises to Johor for axing Muhyiddin**  
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Umno president and Prime Minister Najib Razak said his recent cabinet reshuffle was not aimed at hurting the feelings of Johor people.

"It was a very difficult decision but for certain reasons, it had to be made in the interest of politics....not to hurt the Johorians," he said in his speech at the opening of the Pasir Gudang Umno division delegates' meeting, here, today.

In the cabinet reshuffle, Najib had dropped his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the member of parliament for Pagoh.

Admitting that he understood the sentiments in Johor, which all this while has been Umno and BN stronghold, Najib said he appreciated the trust that Johor Umno had given him to continue steering the party.

"I believe and am confident that based on past experience (including) when Semangat 46 came about, Johor is still positive and constructive to be with Umno.

"I am confident that in the current situation, Johor Umno will continue to play a constructive role....together we not only pray (for the best) but work at it," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Najib acknowledged how significant Johor was for Umno not only as the state where this Malay political party was born, but that Umno's strength at the national level also depended a lot on the state.

"Therefore, it is very important for us to continue with the party's struggle for Umno to remain strong and respected, so our fortress, Johor Umno, must be protected," said Najib, who promised to continue steering the party although faced with a difficult situation.

- Bernama