

Najib: Who says Malaysia a failed nation under me?

MalaysiaKini.com

Aug 6th, 2016

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak does not believe that Malaysia will cease to be respected should he continue to lead the country.

Citing Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's visit to Malaysia as well as Najib's recent meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, fondly known as Jokowi, the prime minister said these instances show how he still played an important role.

Najib said the two leaders had clearly shown their acceptance of the kind of approach used in administering Malaysia.

"Some claimed that if I continue to be the prime minister, Malaysia will fail (but) I don't see people disrespecting Malaysia," he said.

Poroshenko, he said, during his visit to Malaysia's airport, told him how Malaysia was able to also manage the Istanbul airport since the airport is handled by a Malaysian government-linked company (GLC).

Jokowi, on the other hand, had promised to give more projects to Malaysia, claimed Najib.

"So does this show that Malaysia has failed? No," said the Umno president in his opening speech of the Selangor Umno delegates' meeting in Kuala Langat today.

Najib also urged Umno members to close ranks in a bid to capture Selangor from Pakatan Harapan.

"Don't reject a large party (like Umno) that has contributed so much to the country simply because of differences in opinion.

"Don't quit the party, try to split it, criticise our country or collude with foreigners," he said in an apparent reference to mentor-turned-nemesis Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the former premier.

Mahathir is in the midst of setting up an Umno splinter party in an effort to oust Najib amid the 1MDB scandal.

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