

Najib warns of new colonisation at Umno division meet
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Do not allow any form of modern colonisation to occur in our country because as Malaysians, we are the ones to determine the direction and protect the sovereignty of the country, said Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

The Umno president said if the country were to be colonised in the modern form, all the dignity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation would be lost and would never be regained.

"The history of (Melaka's) Bendahara Tun Perak, who was loyal to four rulers, was famous and Melaka was known as the Venice of the east, but when one who believed in agitation, provided information to the Portuguese, Melaka was destroyed. This is the lesson from our history.

"Protect the sovereignty because it is our national sovereignty, that is our right, our national leadership will decide and no other people," he said when officially opening the Tangga Batu Umno divisional delegates meeting in Bandar Hilir, Malacca today.

Also present were Malacca Chief Minister Idris Haron, who is also Tangga Batu Umno division head, Umno executive secretary Ab Rauf Yusoh, who is also Masjid Tanah Umno division head, Senator Mohd Ali Rustam, who is also Bukit Katil Umno division head, and about 500 members of the Tangga Batu Umno division.

Najib said those who did not learn from history would be destined to repeat the same mistake, thus he pointed out that loyalty was key to the struggles to protect the nation and champion the cause of the people.

"In politics, I have great respect for the late Abdul Ghafar Baba who was very loyal to the Umno struggle, for him, position was not important but what was important was the party's struggle because if the party was safe, everyone would be safe.

"One day, I will hand over (Umno) to my successor, at that time, if you want to come to me or otherwise, it is immaterial. But I will not betray Umno. We want to hand over a strong party," he said.

He said that as a responsible leader, all decisions for Umno and more importantly, for the nation, would be made collectively or by consensus or 'syura'.

Not 'one-man show'

Najib said that as a leader chosen via a very democratic system in Umno, he did not practice 'one-man show' or even worse, dictatorship which would not benefit the party or people.

Najib added that there were people who said he was stupid for having amended the

constitution to give an opportunity to 160,000 Umno members to elect their president, but this had to be done to strengthen the party's struggle for the sake of the nation.

"I want to be a president who is elected by the members; previously there must be 56 nominations for a contest. Getting one (nomination) was difficult, 56 (nominations) would be impossible. If I had retained the constitution, I could easily be PM (prime minister) for more than 22 years," he said.

"That is why I say here that no matter what slanderous accusations are hurled at us, for as long as Umno members and the people are with me, I will continue to struggle because we have a mission," he said.

Najib said Umno which had been established in 1946 and had steered the nation since Merdeka, still had much to do to develop the country, and for this reason he did not want any betrayal by party members and the people.

As such, he wanted everyone to learn the history of Malacca which had collapsed due to foreign intervention which subsequently eliminated all struggles to transform it into a great nation.

- *Bernama*