

Cooperation mooted with PAS not because Umno's weak
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Prime Minister and Umno president Najib Abdul Razak said today Umno was itself strong and not too weak that it has to cooperate with PAS.

At the same time, he said, PAS should respect Umno as a party which was strong and able to champion Islam, which was a basis of their struggle all this while.

Najib said no one should doubt Umno's struggle in the matter.

"I do not want to make any more statements because the Umno deputy president (Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin) has already issued a statement.

"I feel that statement should suffice.

"I just want to say that Umno is itself strong, and it is not that we are too weak that we have to forge a new friendship with PAS," he said.

The prime minister spoke to reporters after the Treasury's monthly assembly, presentation of 2009 excellent service awards and the award of 5S certification renewal in Putrajaya.

Yesterday, Muhyiddin expressed Umno's commitment and readiness to meet with and forge cooperation with PAS in various fields, including strengthening Islam and the position of Malays in the country.

Earlier, a member of the Special Affairs Department think tank, Lokman Nor Adam, was quoted as saying that the desire to make Malaysia a country which practises Islamic policies would become a reality if Umno and PAS were united.

Following this, Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (Abim) president Razak Idris proposed the setting up of a special committee to look into cooperation between Umno and PAS.

Commenting further, Najib, who is also finance minister, said whether cooperation between Umno and PAS would become a reality or otherwise depended on further developments in the matter.

- Bernama

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