

Najib's speech 'stresses on solidarity and comradeship'
Malaysianmirror.com
24 October 2010

KUALA LUMPUR - Several Umno leaders believe the winding-up speech by party president Najib Abdul Razak at the end of the Umno General Assembly Saturday wanted to ensure that the spirit of solidarity and comradeship among party members as well as those of the Barisan Nasional component parties must remain strong.

"I congratulate and am happy that the top Umno leader himself has given an explanation, statement and stand on how we must move forward," said Umno vice-president Hishammuddin Hussein.

He said the move to close ranks and focus on the party's objectives were the thrust in efforts to transform Umno.

Another vice-president, Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Najib's speech called for an immediate response from Umno members.

"We feel that we have been jolted by the president's speech because he wants us to act immediately," he said.

On Najib's criticism about Umno's weakness in using the new media compared to the opposition, Zahid said the Umno leadership at the national and divisional level must explain and respond to all surfers of the new media so that Umno information could reach the followers of the new media.

"The combination of the new media and the mainstream media will bring us closer to a bigger target group. I personally maintain the Facebook and Twitter accounts. I hope the Cabinet ministers will also give their inputs in the cyber media," he said.

Umno veteran Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik said Najib's speech aimed to wake up the Malays from their comfort zone and to capitalise on the special privileges of the Malays as stipulated in the Federal Constitution.

"I find that the president's speech this time around was very firm and he too reminded on the existing restrictions, in terms of the freedom of the Malays and the non-Malays.

"He also stated that Malay unity was key to national stability and this must be nurtured and strengthened from time to time," Abdul Rahim said.

Meanwhile, Supreme Council member Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi said that the announcement by Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, in his winding up speech, especially making it mandatory to pass history as a subject in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination in 2013 showed that the government was responsive to the debate during the general assembly.

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said the president's speech injected a new lease of life into Umno members to begin self transformation as the basis for party transformation.

"Winning the hearts of the people using the inclusive approach...to brand Umno so that the people can feel the Umno contribution. Don't merely depend on the government but that

Umno itself must be seen to be working and resolving the people's problems," he said. -
Bernama

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50119>