

**Najib: Go to the ground and prepare for polls next year**  
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KUALA LUMPUR - Umno president Najib Abdul Razak said he and his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin would be going to the ground (turun padang) nationwide from next year to meet the people and prepare the party machinery for the 13th general election.

Without disclosing when the next general election would be held, the prime minister said he wanted other Umno leaders to also go to the ground and "to always be there".

"Beginning next year, we will be going to one state after another to meet the party leaders and people there. We want them (local Umno leaders) to be well prepared to ensure our visits will have good public attendance. When you return, start preparing," he told the delegates when winding up the debate at the Umno General Assembly 2010, here, Saturday.

The current parliamentary term ends in 2013.

Najib said he would also be making changes to the party leadership at certain levels for better preparedness in facing the next general election.

He said he would also be discussing with Muhyiddin and the three party vice-presidents - Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Hishammuddin Hussein and Mohd Shafie Apdal -- on drawing up the best formula in facing the elections.

The prime minister who often interspersed his speech with jokes to enliven the atmosphere, also recited a 'pantun' which urged the party election machinery to ensure victory in the upcoming Galas state seat by-election in Kelantan and the Batu Sapi parliamentary seat by-election in Sabah on Nov 4.

***The pantun read:***

"Jadi rajin, jangan malas; Boleh menang kita di Galas  
"Jangan jadi batu api di Batu Sapi."  
(Work hard, don't be lazy, we can win in Galas.  
Don't be instigator in Batu Sapi)

Najib said what was important now was that the people must come first and Umno leaders must always be close to their hearts in all their actions.

He said besides the national leadership factor which encompassed policies and direction, three other important factors for Umno to ensure victory in the next general election were party leadership at the state level, people's acceptance of the party and the candidates.

Earlier, Muhyiddin in his winding-up speech also reminded the Umno delegates to be prepared always in facing the general election although the date was not known yet.

Also present were Najib's wife Rosmah Mansor, and former Umno president Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. - Bernama

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