

PKR lacking morals and principles, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Parti Keadilan Rakyat came under fire from top Umno leaders for unethical and under-handed tactics.

It has also been described as a spent force with its members running away from the party.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, opening the Batu Kawan Umno delegates conference in Penang, said the baseless accusations levelled at him, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and other leaders clearly indicated that PKR was unethical.

"Any political party ought to have morals and principles. They cannot simply make baseless accusations and concoct untruths about me, the prime minister and other leaders," he said.

Najib said the series of slander by PKR leaders showed that they had no credibility.

"They even put up doctored pictures of me. That is very wrong," he said.

PKR information chief Tian Chua came under fire on Friday for refusing to apologise over a doctored photograph showing Najib, political analyst Abdul Razak Baginda and an Altantuya Shariibuu look-alike dining together that he had posted on his blog.

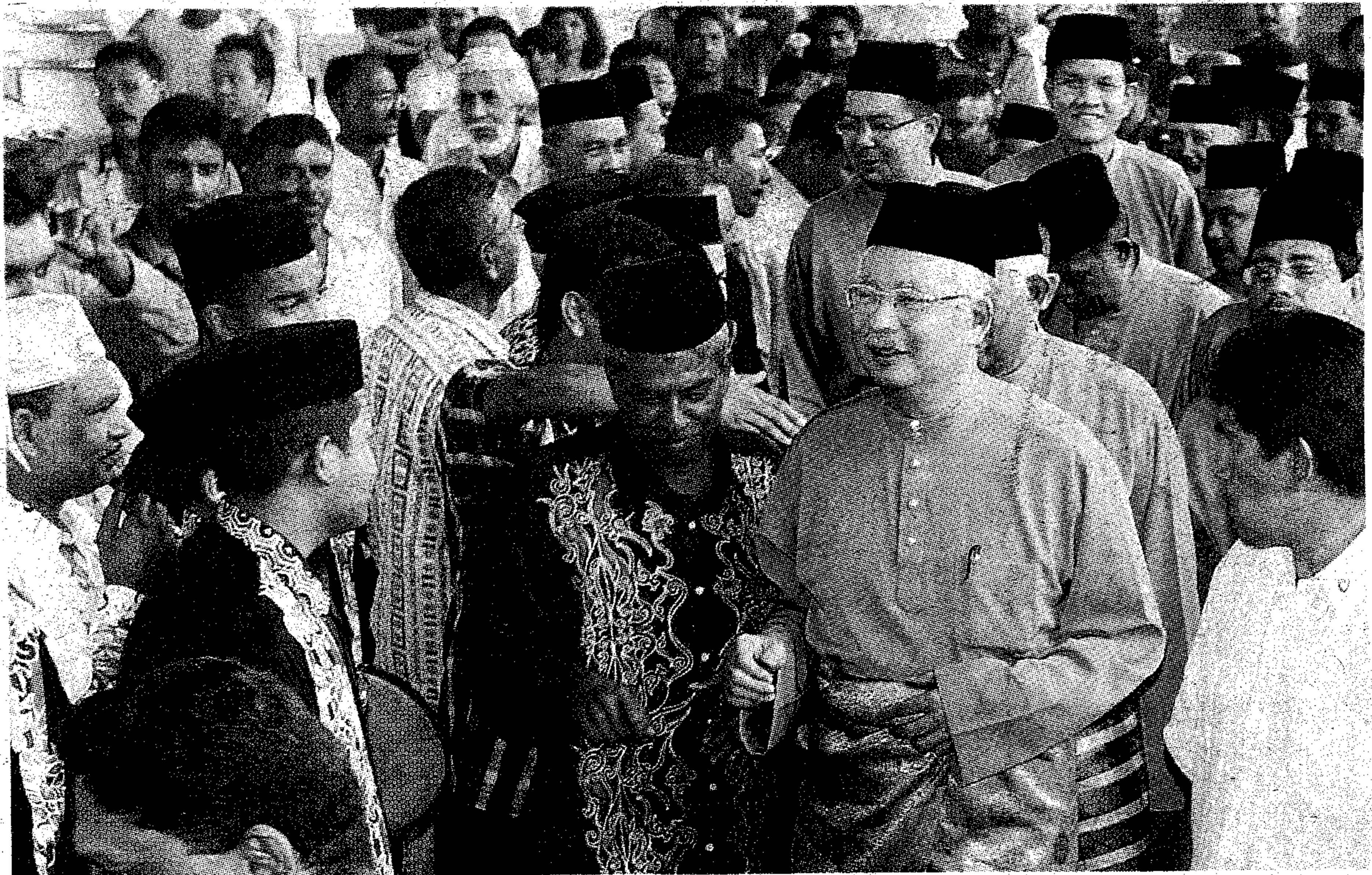
Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said yesterday the recent resignations of PKR leaders and members showed that the party was losing credibility even from within.

He said this showed PKR members had lost faith in party adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Why do they still want to point fingers at us? Why don't they look in the mirror and take care of their own party? In the end, we can see that Umno's advantage is its consistency and sincerity," he said at the opening of the Gombak Umno Youth division delegates conference yesterday.

Hishammuddin said it needed to be ascertained whether it was Anwar who had instructed Chua to post the fake photograph.

"We cannot allow such tactics to continue. We will fight this to the end



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being greeted by the crowd before opening the Bagan Umno delegates conference in Penang yesterday.

because if they can do something like this, then they could do worse things in the future.

"Authorities must take action to stem this trend," he said, adding that he had also instructed his officers to look into legal provisions and what action can be taken.

Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin said the youth wing would not demand an apology from Chua over the doctored photograph.

"We will work hard to take back Permatang Pauh, Keadilan's sole parliamentary seat, at the next general election.

"Barisan Nasional does not practise *samseng* (gangster) politics. The true political arena is the general election where we will do our best to ensure that there's no place in Malaysian politics for Chua and his party," he said after opening Bukit Bintang Umno Youth division

meeting.

He said he would not ask a "stupid" person to apologise as the person would not understand the meaning of the word.

He also chastised Anwar's choice of leaders and added that Chua's conduct demonstrated that he was a leader who was *kurang ajar* (badly brought up) and *biadap* (insolent).

He said political parties with internal problems would try to mask their weaknesses by creating controversies to throw the limelight on others.

He said criticisms levelled at Umno and on the rights of the Malays should be rebutted with facts and information.

"We have to be sophisticated," he said.

"If we are being emotional, then people will be saying we do not have brains and only know how to shout and create trouble."