

DATE: 13/6/2008

SATURDAY
HIGHLIGHTS



Heroes in Blue
Datuk Syed Mohd Mokhtar Syed Zubir Barakbah... heavily outnumbered, but still shot dead four communists insurgents

Price Watch
Going green may help you save marketing bills



Know Your Rep
Mother of five Datuk Shahaniza Shamsuddin has to find time for her constituents

Najib: I want to build Umno

NST - 13/6/2008

SHARIF HARON
Reporting from LONDON

DATUK Seri Najib Razak will not challenge Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for power because, as a "true Umno man", he will not risk destroying the party his father built.

The deputy prime minister and Umno deputy president described himself as a loyal party member who subscribed to an orderly leadership change, as has been the Umno convention.

Najib was responding to a question at Chatham House, home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs here, about the likelihood of his challenging Abdullah for the party presidency following Barisan Nasional's poor results in the March general election.

He said he made his stand not on the basis of courage or cowardice but of "core values".

"I believe what is important is that whatever position you take, it must be a core value personal to you. My father (second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein) helped to build the party.

"I am not going to destroy it. I want to continue to build the party."

He had earlier delivered a lecture on "Malaysia in the face of new global challenges". He was on the final day of a four-day working visit



Datuk Seri Najib Razak thanking members of the Royal Malay Regiment for carrying out public duties at Buckingham Palace, London, on Wednesday. — Bernama picture

to the United Kingdom.

"I am a true party man who believes in the traditional way of leadership transition," he said to an audience of influential individuals in business and public life. The event was held in association with the Asean-UK Business Forum.

He said that as Umno was weakened after the general election, the last thing it needed was a divisive leadership battle.

"What's the point of inheriting a position when you lose in

the general election? I don't want to lead the party to defeat."

During the question-and-answer session, he also explained the government's affirmative action policies, which sought a more equitable society and were necessitated by the country's political realities.

He also shared his views on the importance of an education system that promoted creativity and inventiveness.

In his speech earlier, he

touched on many issues, including Malaysia's economic growth, Vision 2020, the effects of rising fuel and food prices, the general election, the country's commitment to international trade liberalisation and the country's bilateral ties with the UK.

On Malaysia-UK relations, he believed that much more could be done given the historical ties between the two countries and the strong bonds of friendship among their peoples.

"We must not leave our relationship in a state of benign neglect," he said, referring to the term he used in an address to British businesses in 2005.

He called on the British administration to step up bilateral ties.

He said no British prime minister had visited Malaysia since John Major in 1993.

"I'd like to see the (British) prime minister leading a high-powered delegation (to Malaysia) to underscore this (long-standing relationship)."

Koh: Set up judicial complaints panel

GEORGE TOWN: Instead of setting up another royal commission to investigate High Court judge Datuk Ian Chin's allegation of threats against the judiciary, the government should establish a Judicial Complaints Commission (JCC) in addition to a Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).

Gerakan acting president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said yesterday a JCC could perform a much more needed function of receiving, sifting through and investigating complaints against judges in an independent and professional manner.

"Recommendations for actions can then be made to the authorities," Koh said.

Chin had alleged that former prime minister Tun Dr

Mahathir Mohamad threatened the judiciary in 1997.

Koh said a JCC in addition to JAC, was proposed by him in January during a dialogue between Gerakan leaders and the Malaysian Bar Council.

Subsequently, the JCC proposal was included in the Bar Council's proposal to the government.

Koh added that while a criminal threat against or attempted bribery of judges could be referred to and dealt with by the police and the Anti-Corruption Agency, a JCC would also enable judges and magistrates to have an avenue to complain and seek redress, should there be any interference from top judges or the government.

"The existence of such a

mechanism will also relieve the government of the burden of dealing with complaints either way. The JCC and the JAC will give a big boost to judiciary integrity."

While expressing concern about Chin's allegation, Koh said he agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi that it was better to move forward.

"It is better to focus on the recommendations of the Royal Commission in respect of the Lingam tapes."

He also welcomed and supported de facto Law Minister Datuk Zaid Ibrahim's assurance that the bill to reinstate Article 121 of the Federal Constitution to restore judiciary independence would be tabled in Parliament this month.