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Road to success

> **Najib says Umno should acknowledge weaknesses in the party, find remedies and launch efficient party machinery to build the fixture and empower Malays towards prosperity**

UMNO will have to undergo three phases of recovery in order to continue shouldering the responsibility of building the future and empowering the Malays, Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said.

First and foremost, the prime minister said, Umno should acknowledge weaknesses and problems faced by the party, engage in soul-searching to find remedies, and thirdly, launch an efficient party machinery.

Delivering his keynote address at the 2010 Umno General Assembly at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday, Najib said: "It is important that the party goes through these phases in an orderly and organised manner.

"Otherwise, all the changes and transformation plans will not come to a successful fruition."

In his speech which revolved around the theme of empowering the race towards prosperity, Najib called on the Malays to work hard to build their capacity and capability to defend their rights and not resort to "beating the chest" and proclaiming that they should be successful because it was their right.

"Like it or not, the Malays should face the reality in order to achieve success. What is the use of quota, reserves and permits if they are taken for granted. What is the use of opportunities if they are pawned for short-term gains," he said.

He told the delegates and observers that the Malays were not lacking in anything and that they had all the capabilities to become what he called "glocal Malays" who were able to compete with the strongest and the best, and become top achievers in the international arena.

"I, as Umno president, will not accept any more excuses that the Malays are weak because of almost five decades of colonialisation.

"I, as Umno president, and fellow leaders of the party do not want to see the Malays waiting for handouts, or becoming complacent and content with the notion that they can achieve only so much, like in the saying, *'rezeki secupak tak akan menjadi segantang'*," he said.

He said today's battle was one of minds and those with knowledge and the ability to control



information would have the might to influence their surroundings.

Najib said to face challenges, Umno would be steadfast in its struggle for the race, religion and country through concrete initiatives, policies and programmes.

"Umno will not forsake the Malays, Umno will not let them be sidelined and become wanderers in their own country.

"We are committed not only to doing our best

but to also doing the right thing for the Malays.

We cannot afford to be lulled by our past," he said, adding that Umno not only faced external challenges but also from among some sections of the Malays themselves whom he said were "willing to pawn everything for the sake of gaining power".

The lessons from all these, said Najib, were that Umno members should not lose hope or feel slighted. - Bernama