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'Reflect on our weaknesses'

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PARTY OF

MODERATION: Najib urges members to strengthen people's support for Umno

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PRIME Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak has urged party members to reflect on and address their weaknesses before facing the next general election.

Speaking to thousands of members during the party's 67th anniversary celebration at the Putra World Trade Centre here last night, Najib said Umno members should admit their weaknesses despite securing more seats during the recently concluded election, compared with previous elections.

"On our anniversary today, let us all reflect on ourselves and improve upon our own weaknesses.

"For those who supported us, we give thanks. For those who voted for us, we give thanks. For those who didn't, we should ask ourselves how we can bring them back to our fold.

"We should not be arrogant and proud because we are a successful party only because of the people's support," Najib said at the event,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak cutting the 'pulut kuning' cake with other Umno members during the 67th anniversary celebration yesterday. Pic by Effendy Rashid

which was attended by the party's current and former leaders as well as the rank and file from far and wide.

He said Umno was among the world's most successful political institutions not only for its longevity in serving the people for 67 years but also because the party's representatives had continuously been elected by the people.

"In the 13th General Election, Umno and Barisan Nasional returned to power, in spite of the challenges and various attacks

of slander.

"In the end, Malaysians chose, and they chose stability, continuity and the transformation agenda."

Najib said BN and Umno had honoured their promise to accept the outcome of the election, but that the same could not be said of the opposition.

He said the opposition pact made claims of fraudulent practices in the polls and complained about the results of federal seats, but did not complain about the states where it was victorious.

"If the election is so tainted, why

did they take the oath (of state government) in Penang, Kelantan and other states? This is the biggest form of hypocrisy."

Najib said BN could have gained more seats if the opposition did not play the race card during the campaign.

"Umno is strong. Umno did not lose as we gained from 79 seats to 88."

He stressed that Umno was not racist but fair to all races.

"We are a party of moderation and stand for justice for non-Malays, who are our partners. This

policy is fair and just. We will not allow opportunistic politics to destroy what we have built over the years."

Earlier, Najib joined a congregation to perform the *Maghrib and Isyak* prayers while taking part in a *tahlil*, in accordance with this year's theme of giving thanks.

He later hoisted the Umno flag, "Sang Saka Bangsa", while members sang the party's song prior to the dinner. He also joined supreme council members in cutting a *pulut kuning* cake.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as saying that the party needed to undergo a more comprehensive and radical political transformation process in the face of rising challenges.

He said for Umno to become a more dynamic, inclusive, visionary and sacred Malay-Muslim political party, it should be more universal in its struggle without undermining the objectives of its establishment.

He said the middle class and Malay youth, whose outlook and thoughts were different from that of earlier generations who laid the foundation and shaped Umno's direction, should be engaged.

He urged Umno members to remain loyal to and support Najib to enable him to lead the country and party to greater success.

Muhyiddin also stressed the need for BN component parties to spearhead a process of change to ensure they were accepted by all races in the country.

"The parties need to be more sensitive about building a cohesive party and must engage in strategic cooperation with Umno to ensure BN gets stronger support from the people."