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It is the president's right, says Najib

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PASIR GUDANG: Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it is his right as Umno president to not disclose the donation he receives on behalf of the party.

He said this had been the practice since the time of his predecessor, and it had been his practice to not question the donations his superior received, even when he was Umno deputy president.

"During my time as Umno deputy president, I did not question where the party president acquired funding for the party. This has been the practice since the time of (former premier) Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I have never questioned this, and I continue this as it is the practice of the party," said Najib to almost 1,000 delegates and guests at the opening the Pasir Gudang Umno division meeting at the Taman Mawar multipurpose hall here yesterday.

He said he was merely following in the footsteps of past Umno presidents.

The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) had, on Aug 3,

said its investigation showed that the RM2.6 billion deposited into Najib's account was from a donor and not Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"MACC has said that what I received was not a bribe. It was channelled to conduct CSR (corporate social responsibility) and not for personal use."

On donations for political parties, Najib said he had, four years ago, suggested to the opposition to have every political entity declare such funds, but they had disagreed to it.

State Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the refusal of opposition parties to declare their assets or funds during the last general election in 2013 was expected.

He said although opposition parties wanted to be seen as being transparent in terms of political funds, they did not practise what they had preached.

"They will raise an issue to their liking but they will later change their stand," said Khaled, who is Johor menteri besar.