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'Don't betray Umno for personal agendas'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has reminded Umno leaders and members not to betray the party's struggle in favour of personal agendas to the point of selling one's dignity.

He said everyone in the party must ensure that political struggle based on morals and principles was defended to face the challenges and issues plaguing the country.

"In politics, we must have moral principles... in whatever we do, we must uphold the constitution, if not, the country will descend into chaos.

"If there is chaos, all that we have fought for will be destroyed... What will we leave to our children and grandchildren?" he said when opening the annual assembly of the Association of Former Staff of the Community Development Department (PBAKM) and launching Kelab Waris PBAKM here yesterday.

Present were Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, PBAKM president Datuk Melati Ali and senator Tan Sri Mohd Ali Rustam.

Najib slammed leaders who changed their stand and struggle, adding that such leaders would say one thing and do something else.

"Before... (he would say members) must support the party and advise those who have retired not to forget the party.

"(He would say) when we were leaders, others supported us, so when we stop being leaders, we must support the party.

"Where is this person sitting now? He is not sitting with Umno any more; he is not sitting with those loyal to the struggle.

"He is sitting with people who he once labelled as racists, chauvinists, communists, anti-Islam and anti-Malay. What do we want to say about



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the opening of the annual assembly of the Association of Former Staff of the Community Development Department (PBAKM) and launch of Kelab Waris PBAKM at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

him? We defended him for 22 years.

"People said he was cruel, called him *maha firaun* (grand pharaoh).

"That is not what I said, it was what they said and I am relating what they said. Now, he sits on the same stage (with them).

"Where's one's dignity? Even if we don't have anything, we should at least have our dignity," Najib said.

He said the people were no longer

influenced by attempts to change the government without going through general elections.

He said the people would not allow outsiders to determine the country's leadership and would support the government's efforts to develop the nation.

The country had a system and everything must be done according to the rule of law and abide by the

Constitution, he said, adding that the people could decide the country's leadership every five years.

"Don't entertain these people (who try to topple the government) because we have a lot of work to do for the people and country.

"We must persevere, stay focused as government leaders and ensure Malaysia continues to succeed under the leadership of Barisan Na-

sional and Umno.

"If there are mistakes, we rectify them ourselves. Do not destroy the country and do not destroy the party we love.

"If the party falls, there is no more struggle. That is why we must love the party and love the nation."

Earlier, more than 5,000 PBAKM members, led by Melati, pledged their support for Najib's leadership.