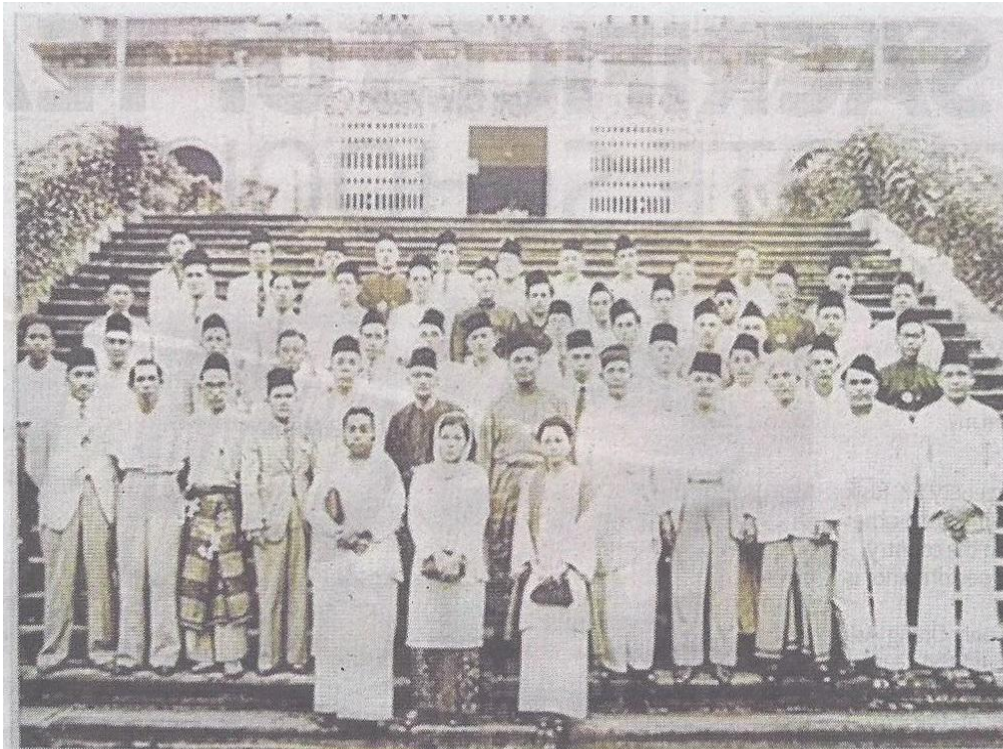




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Umno's founding members in front of Istana Besar Johor in 1946. Pic courtesy of Prime Minister's Facebook account

NST-10/5/2016

'Past leaders' fighting spirit lives on'

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno will continue to be the bastion of protecting and upholding Malay rights in the country.

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak on his Twitter account, @NajibRazak, said Umno was established to safeguard the welfare of Malays, and the struggle must continue.

"Umno was formed to protect the welfare of the Malays. We must ensure the continuity of this struggle," the prime minister said yesterday.

On Facebook, Najib posted a photo of Umno's founding members in front of Istana Besar Johor in 1946,

the birthplace of Umno almost seven decades ago.

The political party, he said, started with a group of thinkers and patriots.

"Now, 70 years after its formation, we have millions of Umno members nationwide. Although many of the founding fathers have now left us, their fighting spirit remains strong among us, as sturdy as the Istana Besar Johor, in championing the Malays in Malaysia.

"This is the noble fighting spirit that I, as Umno president, will continue to inculcate among party members forever," said Najib, with the hashtag #Umno70Tahun, in

conjunction with Umno's 70th anniversary tomorrow.

Najib also posted a picture of the late Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba, officiating the party's 43rd anniversary celebration and described Ghafar as the "Man of Umno".

In the photo, Ghafar, who was the then Umno deputy president, was standing in front of a wall which had the objectives of the party.

"It is clear in the objectives enshrined in the Umno constitution, that the party is the pillar of unity, strength and honour for the Malays.

"We must continue this struggle for the glory of the people."