

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	8 AUGUST 2016

# Najib: Don't bring down party presidency

*The star - 8/8/2016*

**TAIPING:** Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has reminded party members not to bring down the office of the Umno president.

The Umno president said it was normal to have misunderstandings and difference of opinion, but that did not mean they must be used to betray and bring down the presidency.

Najib said even married couples have differing views – sometimes spouses put on a sour face, and at times the husband has to sleep on a sofa, but in the end, they get back together.

He said there must be a “red line” that should not be crossed to ensure that the presidency is not betrayed, and that the party remained relevant in its struggle.

“There are proper channels that can be used to settle differences and views within the party, and in accordance with the constitution, and Malay culture.

“There is a need to have moral principles; we need to take care of the party and the institution of the presidency and not of ‘Najib’.

“You all can love me as the party president but at some point someone will replace me, so if the institution is brought down, the party will be weakened,” he said at the opening of the Taiping, Bukit Gantang, Bagan Serai and Parit Buntar Umno delegates meeting here yesterday.

Najib who is also Prime Minister took a swipe at those who betrayed the party, saying these people were now sitting at the same table as those who they used to call anti-Malay and anti-Islam.

“There is no political morality in



**In the name of unity:** Najib (second from right) officiating the opening ceremony of the Taiping, Bukit Gantang, Bagan Serai and Parit Buntar Umno delegates meeting. — Bernama

them. We on the other hand must ensure that the party is upheld at all times, not undermined or betrayed so that we are able continue with the struggle of the party,” he added.

Najib also announced that Datuk Saarani Mohamad, Perak Umno secretary and Lenggong Umno division chief, would take over as Perak Umno deputy liaison chief.

The position was vacated by Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, the Tambun MP, when

he quit his Cabinet and Umno posts in June.

Later when opening the Lumut Umno division meeting, Najib said party members must remain loyal for the rest of their lives.

He said members should not choose to remain loyal only when they are holding powerful positions in the country’s administration or when their wishes were fulfilled.

“There are those who have decided to leave the party primarily

because they could not get what they want,” he said referring former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had announced the setting up of a new party.

He said it was not up to Dr Mahathir to determine his position.

“I am, the one who is responsible towards each and everyone of you. So, it is only the three million members of Umno who are fit to decide whether I should stay or leave,” he said.