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# Najib: Opposition envious of BN solidarity

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Opposition is envious of the “absolute solidarity” seen at last week’s Umno general assembly, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. He urged Umno members to be wary of dirty tactics by the Opposition.

“They are envious of the total solidarity within Umno and Barisan Nasional,” the Prime Minister said in a statement yesterday.

“So it’s not surprising that they are now spreading rumours in an attempt to undermine my close relationship with the Deputy Prime Minister. Perhaps they are mistaking his character with some former party members, who were driven by personal interest, not the party or national interest,” he said.

A purported letter by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has been circulated on social media, calling for Najib to step down.

Najib said that the political Opponents “tried everything in their power to divide us. But they do not understand Umno and the loyalty of its real members – those who stand with the party and its democratically-elected leadership through thick and thin.”

“The Opposition is now so desperate and in such disarray that they have been forced to ally themselves with the man who jailed their own leaders. I urge all party members to be alert to the dirty tactics used by our enemies,” he added.

Earlier at an event in Batu Caves,



**One size fits all:** Najib visiting the Malaysia Indian Football Academy (Mifa) booth during his visit to the event at Batu Caves. Mifa president Datuk T. Mohan is showing Najib a football jersey as Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk M. Saravanan (left) looks on.

Najib visited booths installed by Indian non-governmental groups at SJK(T) Batu Caves.

The booths were set up by 80 of the most successful groups invested by the Socioeconomic Development of Indian Community (Sedic), which is under the Prime Minister’s Department.

Among those exhibiting were the Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners Association (Primas) and the Secretariat for Empowerment of Indian Entrepreneurs (SEED).

Sedic special unit director Prof

Datuk Dr N.S. Rajendran said Sedic has been given a RM500mil budget next year to continue nurturing education and jobs within the B40 (bottom 40%) of Indian households in the country.

Najib, he said, had also expressed happiness at the public reception for the programmes under Sedic.

“He told us that he was so happy that we have touched so many lives with our *roti canai*, *mee goreng* and intervention programmes,” he said.

Since its launch in 2014, Prof Rajendran said Sedic had pumped

RM160mil into about 400 Indian groups, projects and initiatives.

“We are seeing more people getting jobs. Most recently, we had 50 people taking up a six month course to study optical technology and 36 of whom have been hired.

“We have funded 2,300 youths to train in football at 137 places in the country as well as 500 new teachers to increase the level of Bahasa Malaysia in Tamil schools.”

He also said some 300,000 Indians had benefited from Sedic programmes in the past two years.