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PM: New challenges ahead for M'sia

'Economy shows promising growth despite recent global crises' *The Star - 10/6/2017 pg. 2*

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KUALA LUMPUR: Several global crises have resulted in geopolitical risks that present new challenges for Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also Umno president, said that apart from security and violent extremism, the country would face challenges that posed major threats.

He said the geopolitical risks were due to recent events such as the severing of diplomatic relations by several Middle East countries with Qatar, Britain's national polls leading to a hung Parliament, Brexit and the ballistic missile tests by North Korea.

"This is a new phenomenon and we have to monitor and act accordingly," he said in a press conference after the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

But he noted that there had also been positive developments in terms of the global economy, including Malaysia's encouraging first quarter growth achievement of 5.6%.

On a separate matter, he said Umno membership had increased, with at least 300 registrations daily at the party's headquarters in the Putra World Trade Centre.

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"This is something we have not seen before," he added.

From April to May this year, Najib said 29,845 members had registered with Umno, while 15,201 complete online registrations were received.

He also said Umno's 71st anniversary celebration last month, which was attended by more than 100,000 members nationwide, was a sign of solidarity.

"We take that as a sign of strength, solidarity and Umno's spirit, which is still strong, to continue ahead and achieve bigger success in the future," he said.

Earlier, Najib handed over prizes for the lucky draw winners during the anniversary celebration.

Umno member Saifuldhari Abu Bakar won the main prize and took home a Proton Perdana 2.4L, while five others won cars such as the Proton Iriz, Proton Suprima, Proton Preve and Proton Persona.

Ten Umno members also received the Modenas Kriss MR1 and MR2 motorcycles.



Raya tradition: Najib handing out duit raya packets to orphans from Rumah Titian Kasih Taman Tasik Titiwangsa at a breaking of fast event with Umno supreme council members at PWTC. Looking on are Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (in blue) and Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (in brown). — Bernama