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'Ties with Dr M upset many'

Nik Nazmi: Members unhappy with PKR-Mahathir alliance

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SHAH ALAM: PKR's alliance with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has ruffled the feathers of many party members.

PKR Youth chief Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad admitted this in his keynote speech at the congress of the party's youth wing yesterday, where he also said that this would be an opportunity to teach the former prime minister a thing or two about how decisions are made in a democratic manner.

He said that unlike during Dr Mahathir's time, no leader today should hold absolute power.

"We have the opportunity to show Dr Mahathir that a principled negotiation, however complicated, can be carried out before we make a decision together," he added.

However, he conceded that the politics of change demands many compromises.

The Youth congress also voiced support for their president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to be the interim prime minister if Pakatan Harapan wins the general election.

Nik Nazmi said she will hold the post until Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim can be freed from prison to take over.

"She has proven herself as an Opposition Leader in playing a role in quickly forming Pakatan Harapan after Pakatan Rakyat disbanded.

Nik Nazmi also said that PKR Youth supports the call to reduce



In stitches: PKR youth members reacting to an amusing remark by a speaker during their congress.

Malaysia's voting age from 21 to 18.

He said the wing had thrown its support behind #Undi18, a youth initiative lobbying to drop the voting age via the online petition website change.org.

"This has become the practice of many progressive democracies. In Indonesia, the eligible age is 17. It is time for the Federal Constitution to be amended to set the eligible age to vote to be consistent with the age of majority as defined in the law, that

is 18," he added.

Nik Nazmi also warned against the use of racial and religious rhetoric in politics.

The trend of using such rhetoric was not restricted to Malaysia, giving the example of the recent gubernatorial elections in Indonesia, where Muslim candidate Anies Baswedan trumped incumbent Chinese Christian Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, also known as Ahok.

"That victory was encouraged by

a campaign that made use of racial and religious rhetoric. On top of this was the shocking judgment made by the courts," said Nik Nazmi, referring to Ahok's blasphemy trial that saw him jailed for two years.



Selangor problem hangs over PKR meet:
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