

**Chinese Dailies Front-page Najib's Speech At Umno General Assembly
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- The major Chinese language newspapers Friday carried on their front pages the statement by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak that Umno is not a racist party but strives for all the communities.

Najib, in opening the Umno general assembly here Thursday, had said that Umno is not a racist party but one that introduces and triggers the spirit of racial tolerance and creates social stability.

The prime minister's speech made the headlines in Sin Chew Daily, Nanyang Siang Pau, China Press and Oriental Daily, especially the statement that Umno strives for not only the interests of the Malays but all Malaysians.

Carrying a photograph of Najib attired in the blue "Baju Melayu" he had worn yesterday and clasping his hands as he delivered his keynote address, the newspapers also reported that the next general election is near at hand.

Najib's speech was described as fuelling the Umno spirit for electoral battle and to work hard to face the next general election.

Columnists of the Chinese language dailies described Najib's speech this time as "gentle", particularly his reference to the opposition political parties merely as "parties A, B and C".

They also described Thursday's debate as "cordial" because none of the speakers had raised sensitive issues and had focused more on criticising the opposition parties.

They said Umno's inner strength was important to ensure victory of the party and the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the coming 13th general election.

They saw the targeting of criticism at the DAP as a "strategy" to garner the full support of the Malay voters.

One columnist suggested that Umno consider a better way of making the Malays more progressive in the effort to garner their support, and not merely use the opposition as "imaginary enemies".

Another said it was important for Umno not to run out of ideas to drive Malaysia to greater excellence on the world stage.

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