

Umno united under Najib, says Hishammuddin
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By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 — Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein today rejected claims by critics that Datuk Seri Najib Razak is alone in his leadership, saying the prime minister's transformation agenda has the unwavering support of all Umno members.

"Umno has got its act together," he told reporters here.

Hishammuddin said today the PM's transformation agenda has the unwavering support of all Umno members. — file pic

The Umno vice-president pointed out that delegates had proven this today when they passed the motion on Najib's presidential address during the annual general assembly earlier.

"Those who say that Umno is not supporting Datuk Seri Najib's transformation, those who say that Datuk Seri (Najib) is leading on his own, those who say that Umno is living in its own bubble ... what you saw today was the mandate (given) to all the transformation (plans).

"Whether it is for the government, economy or political ... that has never been done before in this country," he said during a press conference after meeting Umno Overseas Club representatives here.

Hishammuddin added the mandate is significant as the delegates present during the assembly are leaders representing the party's branches and divisions nationwide as well as its grassroots leaders.

"Those delegates in the hall are no ordinary members.

"Therefore those who said that the transformation brought by Datuk Seri Najib does not get the mandate of Umno and that Umno cannot do changes and transformation, are unfounded arguments," he said.

Hishammuddin added that the passing of today's motion was a clear indication that party members were now ready to unite under Najib's leadership.

Critics have often claimed that Najib is alone in his transformation agenda as conservatives in the ruling party he leads are resistant to the changes he has mooted.

They have particularly singled out Najib's deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as a leader of the conservative faction in Umno, constantly drawing to attention the latter's famous declaration of being "Malay first and Malaysian next".

Since the prime minister took over the reins of the country, he has embarked on numerous transformation initiatives, promising to implement reforms aimed at increasing individual freedom, weed out corruption, improve the public delivery system and create a more challenging and competitive business environment.

Najib had also introduced his "1 Malaysia: People first, performance now" slogan that is

meant to be form the backdrop of his transformation agenda.

Over recent months, the prime minister announced a series of significant reforms, including the repeal of the Internal Security Act (ISA), the lifting of three Emergency declarations, the formation of a parliamentary select committee for electoral reforms, the lifting of the ban on student politics and the introduction of the Peaceful Assembly Act, a law to regulate public assemblies.

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