

**PAS says Najib taking 'ultra-Malay' route**  
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**By Melissa Chi**

SHAH ALAM, Dec 8 — PAS said today Datuk Seri Najib Razak's appearance at an "ultra-Malay" gathering this week showed that the Umno president has ditched his call for party to be moderate.

"The party is telling the Malays that their position and interests and rights are being challenged, that it is the only party that fights for the Malays.

"They even called to put aside issues of abuse of power, corruption, wastages because it is more important to protect the position and domination of Malays in politics," said Selangor PAS deputy commissioner Khalid Samad (picture).

Najib had warned on Monday the future of Malays would be in doubt if his ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) does not remain in power after a general election expected soon.

After presiding over an Umno general assembly last weekend that saw delegates and leaders accusing Pakatan Rakyat (PR) of being anti-Malay and Islam, the prime minister told the Pertubuhan Kebajikan dan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (Pekida) gathering that their "responsibility is to defend the current government." Pekida claims a membership of over two million.

"Even Najib's stance is seen to be harder as though he is 'ultra-Malay' especially with his appearance at the Pekida assembly.

"This is a divergence from Najib's rhetoric to be moderate because we saw that the moderate stance had been rejected by Umno," Khalid said.

The Shah Alam MP said that it was Umno that was being challenged, and not the Malays, pointing out the distinction.

"We want to change the leadership in Malay politics, not to topple the Malay political structure or to abolish the position or rights of the Malays," he said.

Khalid said Pekida was an association that "even Umno does not dare to associate itself with officially".

"It has an image that is ultra right-wing," he said.

"Umno is out of ideas and no longer qualifies to lead the country because they only see from a narrow point of view that I don't think can be accepted by sane Malays and even non-Malays.

"With his actions, the transformation concept has failed and his moderate stance has been put aside," Khalid said.

"The country's political problem is Umno's domination," he said.

"In Pakatan Rakyat, no one party is dominant. DAP needs PAS, and needs PKR," said Khalid in responding to Umno's attack during its annual assembly where delegates painted DAP as the dominant party in the opposition pact.

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