

**Umno in show of power**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: After enduring rallies perceived to be a test of the ruling coalition's standing among the people, Umno is set to put on a show of strength with a mass gathering on its 66th anniversary on May 11.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the gathering of thousands at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil would be proof of the party's strength ahead of the next general election.

The Prime Minister added that the gathering would prove that a multitude of Umno members could assemble in peace without posing any harm to others.

"I see the 66th anniversary of Umno's birth as an opportune time for us to hold a gathering because it has been a while since we had a mass gathering.

"It is timely for us to do so, and everybody knows that the election is not too far away. So, it is proper for us to showcase to the people what Umno has done all these years," he said in an exclusive interview with Umno-Online, as reported by Bernama.

In celebrating the anniversary, themed "Umno: The People's Champion", he said the members should be proud of what the party had achieved for the country and the people, and thus should feel no pressure.

The Umno president said members must work as a team to prepare for the general election and cast aside differences and rivalry.

He noted that not all members had voted in the past and said that every effort should be made to ensure that all 3.3 million in Umno go to the next polls.

Najib said that Umno had begun to internalise the 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now concept, and a lot of programmes have been implemented by the party based on this philosophy.

Comparing Barisan Nasional and the opposition, Najib said: "We do not engage in play-acting with the people. One of the biggest failings of the opposition is their inability to form a shadow cabinet even though they have been talking about creating a two-party system."

Najib, who is Barisan chairman, also said Umno had never been an extreme party despite championing the interests of the Malays, and it was always tolerant and inclusive towards other races.

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