

**Najib Challenges Opposition To Flex Muscles In Stadium**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak threw a challenge to the opposition to assemble at a stadium as shown by Umno if it really wanted to flex its muscles.

The prime minister said the opposition would take up his challenge if it really love the harmony and respect the law.

"We assembled in this stadium in peace. We assembled in this stadium in an orderly manner. We assembled in this stadium because Umno respect the nation's law.

"We do not need many policemen around. The policemen looked cheerful. They are smiling. They are not tensed up, we are also not tensed up.

"If Umno can assembled in a stadium, why can't other parties do it?" he said when addressing Umno members at the party's 66th anniversary celebration at the Bukit Jalil Stadium here Friday night.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said the reason given by the opposition that the Merdeka Stadium offered by the authorities for the April 28 rally did not have any historical value, was a lie. He said the government made the offer in order to maintain peace and security but it was rejected on the ground that it was too late.

"Even though they have three more days left. Let me tell you, they rejected the Merdeka Stadium for no other reason. Because they wanted to plough (into the police barricade), they wanted to quarrel, they wanted to kick the police.

"If there was no altercation, there would be no stories on CNN, Al-Jazeera, the BBC. This is the real objective. They wanted to show that the government and the authorities are ruthless. They do not respect the laws," he said.

The prime minister said Umno's strength shown tonight was capable of running through the rally if it wanted to defend the Merdeka Square, but Umno would not do that because of its self-esteem and respect for the law.

"This is because this country was liberated by Umno, developed by Umno and because of Umno, the country will become a developed and successful country.

"That's why it will break our heart to see anything happen to our country. Whatever they want to do, Umno will uphold the dignity and image of our country," he said.

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