

Najib Thanks Dr Mahathir, Pak Lah, Unsung Heroes
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's humility was evident once again when he expressed his gratitude to Umno members, including the unsung heroes for the loyalty to the party's struggle.

The prime minister and Umno president thanked two former prime ministers, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for their continuous support and help in strengthening the party.

Speaking when winding up debate at the Umno General Assembly 2012 at the Putra World Trade Centre here today, he singled out an old friend whom he identified as Cikgu Seman Deros among individuals who were close to his heart.

"He was never an elected representative, but Cikgu Seman still loves, holds his loyalty and committed to Umno," he said of the 70-year-old delegate from the Jasin Umno division, Melaka.

Najib said he was moved when he noticed women observers sitting on the concourse of the PWTC, some of them came as early as 6.30 am to book their seats.

"There are the unsung heroines," he quipped amid applause from the delegates.

Expressing his appreciation to Dr Mahathir, Najib said the former prime minister met Umno leaders throughout the country on his own accord.

"I asked him why he wanted to see (Umno leaders). He said he wanted to tell Umno members that it is important to support the party, not individuals for if the party is in power, the struggle can continue.

"I also got feedback from the closed-door meetings held??. Tun said even though he does not like so-and-so, but if the president (Najib) nominates the person, I (Dr Mahathir) still supports him. Thank you Tun," said Najib and greeted by a loud applause.

The prime minister said he was grateful to Abdullah for his continued support and willingness to relinquish his post as the prime minister and Umno president in the best tradition of the party.

"When he handed over the job to me then, he said, 'Najib, I want you to do better than what I did'," said Najib.

On the opposition, he said, "I believe that our enemies are not that strong, I'm sure the people will be on the side of Umno and BN."

He said the last general assembly before the next general election was special because Umno was seen to have recovered and deserved to lead the country.

The prime minister said the non-Malay support was also getting stronger for they had seen Umno was becoming more positive than before.

As a party, he said, Umno had closed ranks and showed a remarkable spirit to ensure victory in the next general election.

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