

Najib: BN can regain two-thirds majority so long as Umno stays united
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KUALA LUMPUR: It is not impossible for Barisan Nasional to regain two-thirds majority in the general election so long as Umno remains united and inclusive.

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak told party delegates that the only question was the margin of victory.

Delegates who attended the Umno general assembly's presidential council briefing said Najib was confident of victory provided there was no sabotage and the party continued to reach out to non-Malay voters.

"Najib told us that we were on the right track but stressed that we must not take things easy and ensure the party remained united, particularly at division level," said a delegate.

The delegate, who described Najib as being in a good mood, looking relaxed and confident despite an increasingly tense political atmosphere with the elections approaching, said he repeatedly stressed the danger of divisions weakening due to internal sabotage.

"He reminded delegates that no matter who the party chooses as candidates, be they old or new, the person must be accepted by the division leadership."

Another delegate said Najib had also made some reference to its wish to have more young candidates to contest in the general election.

"He even appealed to the older representatives to give way for younger candidates," he said.

Another delegate said Najib clearly outlined what constituted sabotage.

"It is not only actively engaging in acts that can deny victory but also not doing anything to support the candidates.

"The president told delegates that even though Umno is strong, it still needed the support of the non-Malays, as of the 13 million voters, only 3.4 million are party members."

He reminded them not to take for granted any segment of the voters and to reach out to all if Barisan were to win the elections convincingly.

"Since all votes are crucial, the president told us it was important that we do not say or do anything that can hurt the sensitivities of other groups," he said.

Najib also told the delegates that the general election was unlikely to be held in December.

"He told them that the elections could have been called earlier but he wanted to ensure promises made by the Government to the rakyat were fully met to avoid them from being made an issue."

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