

Najib Wants Combination Of Experienced Leaders And New Faces In Umno
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 19 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak hopes the Umno election in October will feature a combination of experienced leaders and new faces.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said party members were free to contest as long as they fulfilled the conditions stipulated in the new party constitution.

"We have no suggestion actually (for the party election).

"We need leaders with experience in Umno. In addition, we also need new talents in Umno. If we block new talents from contesting, we will face problems later especially to select credible leaders when the time comes.

"Umno is a democratic party. We have to take into account the feelings of party members. If the party members want continuity and stability, that is the view of the party members. At the same time, as I said, there must be a right balance between continuity and the need to bring in fresh talents within the party at different levels," he said at a media conference, here today.

He said this when asked to comment on the possibility that several Umno leaders would not be seeking reelection into the Umno Supreme Council in October.

Najib also expressed his appreciation to the leaders who were making way for others to contest.

On the other hand, he also praised those who had offered themselves as candidates in order to contribute to the Umno leadership at certain levels.

Among the Umno leaders who would not be contesting for Supreme Council seats are Johor Baharu Umno division head Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad, Perak Menteri Besar and State Umno liaison chairman Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, as well as Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah.

Earlier, Najib, who is also the Finance Minister, attended the Treasury's Aidilfitri Open House, here.

Also present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Husni, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan, chief executive officer of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Seri Dr Ali Hamsa.

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