

Najib agrees with Pak Lah, saying reform will take time in Umno

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Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak agreed with his predecessor that the party had to change with the times but added that it was "gargantuan task" as it dealt with human emotions.

Najib urged patience as the change in the party would take time and would not happen overnight.

Najib said the party had started reforms soon after he had take over from Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi by amending its constitution on how its top leadership would be picked, which would be implemented during the party elections on Oct 5.

For the first time some 150,000 grassroots members will elect the top leadership, unlike previously the elections were restricted to about 2,600 assembly delegates.

Abdullah said this in response to Abdullah's comments in his upcoming book, "Awakening: The Abdullah Badawi Years in Malaysia".

In the book, Abdullah said that Umno was currently at a crossroads and must immediately reform to survive.

"I notice there is a degree of awareness today to institute reforms. But the degree of willingness is yet to be seen," Abdullah had said.

The prime minister said he had yet to read Abdullah's book and declined to be drawn on other subjects raised in the book.

"I will reserve my comments on other matters," he said after hosting the Cabinet Hari Raya open house at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya today.

Najib said plan to transform the country was not solely his own, but a vision that began with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the country's longest serving Prime Minister, which was continued during Abdullah's tenure.

"Now it's my turn to bring transformation and I have given my commitment and I have to deliver," he added.

Najib urged Muslims and non-Muslims to refrain from doing things to hurt each other.

"We want this country to be harmonious.If we go on the premise of who is right and who is wrong, we will never agree even if the cows come home.

"But if we go on the premise that we should not hurt each other, we will be a peaceful country," he said. – August 8, 2013.

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