

Najib: If Umno falls, Malays will be 'bangsat'
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By FMT Reporters

If Umno loses power, they will be hard pressed, will lose everything, their dignity and future, says PM

KANGAR: Malays will become "bangsat" (destitute) if Umno loses power, party president Najib Razak said today, urging members to defend the party at the helm of political leadership.

"I have asked before, if Umno loses power what will happen to the Malays and Islam?"

"Choosing from the many words in the Kamus Dewan Bahasa, some said Malays will fall head first, Malays will fall by the wayside and others said Malays will never be a force again," he said, Bernama reported.

Najib said he picked bangsat because there was no better word.

"I choose this word. ..because no other words can better depict the lot of the Malays if Umno loses power. They will be very hard pressed, lose everything, their dignity and future," he said.

Opening the delegates meetings of the Padang Besar, Kangar and Arau Umno divisions here today, Najib called for all problems in the party to be solved to ensure the party remained in power.

"Find a solution if there is a problem, whether at the national or state level, don't tell me there is no solution," he said.

He said the party had gone through a myriad of ordeals and problems and they were all successfully solved.

In describing the ordeals of the party, Najib made a reference to the time when Dr Mahathir Mohamad came close to being toppled as party president in a challenge by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, later leading to the party being deregistered and a new party being formed.

"The founder of Umno (Dato Onn Jaafar) left Umno and set up another party; the religious bureau left and set up PAS; Umno was banned, Umno president was challenged and won by only 41 votes, the 1997 financial crisis, Confrontation, communists and many more...but we successfully emerged from the crises," he said.

Najib said there was no reason why Umno could not remain as the ruling party with unity in the party.

"As a party, we cross the broad ocean, often turbulent, and sometimes lashed by storm. The Umno ship is actually strong and has been tested for so long and has changed the

political, economical and social landscape to the extent that the world regards Malaysia as a model and successful nation,” he added, Bernama reported.

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