

## **Watch your tongue if you don't want Malaysia's image sullied, Najib urges Umno leaders**

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 — Umno leaders should not criticise the government if they want to safeguard Malaysia's international image, party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

The prime minister said this was necessary to ensure that other countries continue to view Malaysia positively.

“We have to safeguard our image. If we belittle our image who loses? We lose.

“They (foreign countries) are confident in Malaysia. We are on the right path,” Najib told Umno leaders after handing out dates and cloth for the needy at the National Mosque here in conjunction with the coming Hari Raya celebration.

Najib added that Umno's ability to gather funds for the dates and Raya material was because the country is being managed well.

“Even Rohingya refugees who reach our waters, if they can reach our shores they will kiss Malaysian land.

“Because they are so grateful to be in Malaysia, they know they are safe here and they can find a means of living in Malaysia,” Najib added.

The prime minister went on to say that when he performed the umrah recently, he was shocked to see so many Malaysians in Mecca.

“If Malaysia is not blessed it is impossible that thousands of people here can perform their umrah or Hajj,” he added.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been at the forefront of attacks against the Najib administration and has been actively campaigning for the prime minister's resignation, believing the latter will lead Barisan Nasional (BN) to doom in the next federal polls.

Among others, Dr Mahathir has attacked Najib over his handling of the controversy surrounding 1Malaysia Development Berhad, the troubled state-owned firm that has racked up a debt of RM42 billion since its inception in 2009.

Najib, however, has refused to step down and has responded to Dr Mahathir's accusations — several times via his blog and once through a pre-recorded interview on TV3.

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