

Najib desperate for Malay support, says Sabah opposition
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A Sabah opposition leader today said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak appears to be raising sensitive issues as a desperate attempt to garner Malay support and to ingratiate himself to Umno members.

Bingkor assemblyman and STAR party chief Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said he felt it was a necessary tactic for Najib, who is under pressure, to raise a new pro-Malay war cries to deflect the people's attentions from domestic and international scandals.

"Strong anti-Najib sentiments have been rumbling in Umno for a long time now. So he has to do something to ensure a rebellion does not materialise into a vote against him in the next Umno general assembly." Kitingan said in a statement, responding to Najib's speech at the Malay Unity Gathering in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Najib had pledged in front of 5,000 people that his administration would continue to help and protect the Malays as long as "the moon and stars" still shine.

He said the Bumiputera agenda, which he launched in 2013, would continue to be the national agenda and policies, programmes and actions drawn up will be based on this.

"As the prime minister, I pledged that the government I lead will continue to help the Malay Bumiputeras to be successful," he had said.

Kitingan said Najib's position had become even more unstable and it was unfortunate for Malaysia that world-grabbing headlines by such prestigious newspapers such as The New York Times were now exposing various business deals of the prime minister's associates and family members.

"Today Malaysia's political and corporate scandals are no longer for local consumption but have become hot media materials for the whole world to ogle over," he said.

Kitingan said being Umno president, Najib could not be blamed for having high aspirations for the Malays but had become less of a Malaysian statesman by being over protective of the community.

"He is violating his own National Transformation Policy (NTP), leaving the highly publicised policy in tatters," he added.

Kitingan said the PM's declaration at the meeting was anti-national because he was putting behind him the need to unite all Malaysians.

"Has he forgotten that he is supposed to be a prime minister of all Malaysians?" Kitingan asked.

He reminded Najib that he would not be in Putrajaya if not the support from Sabah

and Sarawak.

Kitingan suggested that Najib showed impartiality to all Malaysians based on the noble principles of the NTP and not lead and encourage the other Umno leaders to keep ranting pro-Malay and anti non-Malay proclamations.

"We all must never forget that Malaysia was built not just by Malays but by Malaysians of all races, including natives of Sabah and Sarawak." Kitingan said. – March 3, 2015.

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