

Najib Asserts Commitment To Continue Serving People
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has pledged his commitment to continue serving the people who have been his motivators for the past 40 years in politics.

The Prime Minister who is also UMNO president said he would continue all policies which had been implemented to help the people, although some are regarded as unpopular.

However, he was confident they would impact positively on the people and country in the long run.

"When I took over the leadership of the nation, I picked the slogan '1Malaysia - People First (Performance Now)' and I must remind myself that the people come first.

"When the people are happy with our party and the government, when our programmes reach the people..in whatever condition, my struggle would have reached those who want Malaysia to be progressive and fair," he said in his speech at the 69th UMNO anniversary celebration at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre, in Kuala Lumpur, Monday night.

Also present was his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin together with about 3,000 UMNO members.

Najib said among the aims of his struggle was to look after the welfare of the people by providing affordable homes, bridging the income gap, creating job opportunities and tackling cost of living of the people.

He said, UMNO's success does not depend on its members alone, but in fact it is the people who, as a whole, evaluate every movement and decision made by the party.

"Remember, as a party practicing democracy, it is the people who decide in the end. Whilst, I salute the pronouncement of support by the UMNO Supreme Council members (for me). I realise with all humility that I need to lead a party which receives the strong support of the Malaysian people," he said.

In the speech, Najib drew attention that UMNO had weathered bitter tests since its inception and had successfully faced all of them, not only due to the wisdom of past leaders, but also the strong support of party members for the leaders during that time.

Najib said the support of party members for leaders was still relevant today when the party faced a more challenging environment and posed a severe test to the struggle of the party.

"For example, the spread of information, including malicious claims via the social media and online, showed a new surrounding and perception which is more than reality," he said.

According to Najib, based on the situation UMNO must adapt itself for the current and future struggles.

The UMNO president reminded members of the party to be united and always place the party ahead of their own desire because in this manner the party would become stronger and can continue its struggles.

"Leaders come and leaders go but if the party is still strong, its struggle can still continue. I say a strong party must have power because it is meaningless if we don't have power," he said.

Najib regarded the UMNO Supreme Council (MT) meeting earlier as the best ever held despite myriads of rumours and instigations on relations and unity among the party leaders.

MT members had exhibited maturity by pledging their full support to the UMNO president and Deputy President.

"This is also my hope, that if we have a line up of compatible leaders, believing in one another, it will become a clear signal that if it is firm at the top, the bottom will also be solid in a perfect sync," he added.

During the ceremony, Najib handed the 2015 Tokoh Melayu Terbilang awards to renowned musician and composer Datuk Dr Johari Salleh, 75, and the first woman to become a Member of the State Assembly in Negeri Sembilan from 1959 to 1969, Datuk Siti Rahmah Kassim, 89.

The former Radio Televisyen Malaysia music director, Johari was the composer of the UMNO song 'Bersatu, Bersetia, Berkhidmat.'

Meanwhile, Siti Rahmah, who was born in Kampung Batu Hampar, Rembau was synonymous with the title 'Bracelet of Independence', where she made contribution in kind towards the struggle for the country's independence.

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