

Najib meets Umno leaders again today to explain 'current issues'

The Malaysian Insider

Jun 14, 2015

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is set to brief Umno division representatives today on "current issues" at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur today.

Kota Raja Umno division chief, Kamaruzzaman Johari said that the closed door session will take place at 2pm at Dewan Tun Hussein Onn.

Najib is expected to talk about the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) controversy in his efforts to counter mounting attacks against him.

"This is between the party's administrations and the PM. Among those invited to attend were top leaders, their deputies, treasurers, secretaries including those from Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings," said Kamaruzzaman.

Umno information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan appeared to have confirmed the meeting on Twitter today, saying he would be attending an "Umno programme" after cooking his "zero GST" breakfast.

"Once in a while cooking breakfast for the family. Nasi goreng recipe without GST. Serve immediately. After cooking, there's an Umno programme," he tweeted, referring to the goods and services tax.

DAP today challenged Najib to face Parliament on debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) instead of briefing Umno leaders.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said this was because the prime minister as the final approving authority for all 1MDB decisions must accept full and final responsibility for all of 1MDB actions, although he may not be responsible for its day-to-day operations.

Lim and other opposition leaders have repeatedly called for Najib to answer to Parliament on the strategic investment firm, which has debts of RM42 billion incurred in just six years of operation.

Najib has come under fire from former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad over 1MDB's opaque dealings and debts, and critics say the firm's troubles and inability to pay its debts could affect Malaysia's economy.

On March 8, Najib held a closed-door briefing with Umno division chiefs during which he reportedly said those found guilty of committing fraud in 1MDB's operations would not be protected. – June 14, 2015.

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