

Umno leaders must choose between Najib and party, says former minister

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Legal action against The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) will not benefit Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak as the move will only buy him a small amount of time to continue staying in power, former Umno minister Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin said today.

The former information minister (pic, right) in his blog Zamkata said this was because legal action would not be able to "rescue" or "clean" Najib's already tarnished image.

He said to save Umno, it was now up to the party's leadership to decide on the prime minister's fate, whether to keep or remove him from power.

"The court can no longer rescue and clean him. It could extend his power for a while longer, amid people losing their thrust, (the country's) political instability and economic unrest.

"Now, everything lies with the Umno leaders to decide whether to let this situation continue or wait until the situation gets worse and more embarrassing.

"They must make a wise choice and decide if they want to save Najib or save Umno by sacrificing Najib," he said.

He said that exposure published by international media like the WSJ, has somewhat provided credence to the many issues raised by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Last Thursday, WSJ alleged that up to US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) were transferred into Najib's personal accounts, just before the 13th General Election.

Najib however responded he had never taken any funds for personal gain and pinned the blame on his critics like Dr Mahathir, who has in recent months called for his resignation.

"With the continuous exposure by the WSJ, more people can see the truth behind Tun's attempt to save Umno and the country," Zainuddin said.

He said Umno leaders who understands the people's feeling will be able to make the right decision.

He said that due to the allegations that Najib has been getting funds being channelled directly into his personal bank accounts, the Malays have no credible political party they could depend on.

"They no longer a place to cling to, PAS is on the verge of collapse and Umno is low on moral standards."

Zainuddin said Najib is in a dilemma and frantically trying to restore his image.

"Retreating will mean confirmation of the allegations made while not backing down will not do him any good as the situation is no longer in his favour. Whatever he does will not be able to restore his image," he said.

He added that all this comes at a time when Umno had already lost the trust of the Chinese community and the waning confidence and support among the Malays.

"The last breath of Umno is now in the hands of Umno leaders themselves before the people take matters into their own hands," he said. – July 8, 2015.

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