

**Love your party, be like Pak Lah, Najib tells Umno members**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**August 16, 2015**  
**By Looi Sue-Chern**

Datuk Seri Najib Razak today urged Umno members to love the party by emulating his predecessor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Addressing the Kepala Batas Umno division meeting in Penang today, Najib said Umno as a political party had faced many trials and challenges over the years but it always survived.

The Umno president said he wanted to put the current crisis faced by the party into perspective, citing the 1987 Umno leadership crisis that saw Abdullah removed from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's cabinet.

"At the time, the party president won just 41% of the votes to win the post. It meant that more than half of the delegates rejected him.

"We had to revive Umno with Umno Baru at the time," he said, adding that Umno also suffered badly in the Johor Baru by-election not long after.

"We got through that. Why? Pak Lah (Abdullah) in an interview with Mingguan Malaysia today said what I can summarise as the reason for Umno's survival.

"He said: 'Saya terlalu sayang kepada parti Umno' (I love Umno too much)... He said he never got angry or bear any ill-will after he was removed from the Cabinet. He even went to campaign in Johor Baru.

"Pak Lah's spirit and character should be an example for us all. Even though as vice-president, he still defended Umno," Najib said.

Najib's message is believed to be directed at his harshest critic, Dr Mahathir and party deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who he recently removed from his Cabinet as deputy prime minister.

Muhyiddin had openly criticised Najib over his handling of the 1MDB scandal before he was dropped.

Najib said Umno was still intact and enjoyed majority support.

"What we need is love for the party," he said, and quoted Kepala Batas Umno division chief Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican (pic, left), who told Utusan Malaysia in an interview that different opinions could be a blessing if there was decorum and discipline.

"We must have discipline and collective duty towards the party. We must take care how we carry ourselves as leaders at all levels

"At all levels there is decorum and discipline," said Najib, who was recently slammed by Anina Saadudin, a Wanita Umno leader in Langkawi, who said he had "urinated" on three million Umno members.

"I accept all criticism but tell me nicely," he added.

Najib is facing turbulent times in his political career over the controversies surrounding the debt-ridden federal investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and the RM2.6 billion "donation" deposited into his personal accounts shortly before the general election two years ago.

For months now, he has been attacked daily by critics, including former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and social media users, apart from his political rivals from opposition parties, over the two scandals. – August 16, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/love-your-party-be-like-pak-lah-najib-tells-umno-members>