

All 3 million Umno members must be loyal to party, says Najib
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By Looi Sue-Chern

Umno may have three million members but they must be party loyalists, party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

Najib, who is also prime minister, said members (orang Umno) would know that their party must be defended and there must be loyalty and discipline.

"Only then we will always have love for the party, regardless of the challenges that come its way. All shall be overcome.

"There were so many incidents in the past but I'd rather not talk about them or mistakes made in the past because I hold on to collective responsibility.

"I won't spit into the sky and let the spit fall on our faces (ludah di langit, ludah jatuh atas muka kita). I love the party and I want Umno and Barisan Nasional to win," he said when opening the Alor Star Umno division meeting in Kedah this afternoon.

Najib is facing severe criticism over the 1Malaysia Development Berhad scandal and the RM2.6 billion deposited into his personal accounts shortly before the 2013 general election.

The two issues have damaged his image and that of his party and the federal government, leading his subordinates and even some grassroots leaders in Umno to question and criticise him over the handling of the problems.

Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal were dropped from the Cabinet for questioning Najib on both issues.

Najib reiterated that party members must never "dig holes in the ship" and jeopardise the party.

"If you must, come and see me personally and we will talk privately. Don't do it openly."

Najib said he, too, has rights as the elected president of Umno and a party member.

"As long as I am wanted by the party and the rakyat (people), I will continue to lead. Whatever you want to do, wait for the elections."

He urged Umno members in Kedah to continue with their good teamwork, which led BN to wrest the state from the opposition in GE13.

He also praised Kedah Umno leaders for respecting his decision then to put Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir as the head of the state government.

"When I said my choice for menteri besar was Mukhriz, (Alor Star Umno division chief) Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashir Md Hanipah had no objections. He didn't protest or get angry.

"He just asked me not to forget him and give him something. He made the sacrifice and made way because he accepted my decision.

"It was easy for Mukhriz. There was no need for me to see each BN elected rep individually to ask if they would accept him as their MB. They accepted my decision," he said.

Using a football analogy, Najib, a football fan, said he was the manager of the team and he chose his striker, midfielders and goalkeepers.

He said each had their role and they must make sure nobody scored an own goal. – August 23, 2015.

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