

Kedah Umno leader defends motion urging Najib to quit
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By Nabihah Hamid

A Kedah Umno branch leader has defended his speech and motion at the party's recent Merbok division meeting telling Datuk Seri Najib Razak to step down, saying change is needed to ensure the ruling party wins the next general election.

Kampung Kuala Sin branch deputy chairman Abd Karim Ali said the issues facing the party were no longer secret.

"The people, 15 million of them, will vote at the next general election.

"We (Umno members) are only three million. So, I beg the president to please step down," he told The Malaysian Insider.

Karim, who is Merbok Umno Youth chief, slammed his division head Datuk Tajul Urus Mat Zin for denying the existence of the motion, saying he was running away from the real issue.

"He only wanted to run from the issue. When I proposed the motion, there is no objection and it was voted unanimously.

"Why didn't the division chief object when the motion was tabled? Everyone had voted for it," he said.

Karim said he did not make any statement when debating on the motion, as reported by news portal Malaysiakini, adding that it was a proposal to amend it and received unanimous voice vote from all delegates, including the division's committee members.

Even the permanent chairman approved and accepted the motion to amend the motion, he added.

Malaysiakini reported that Tajul denied Karim's statement was a motion as speculated by social media users, and said he was only making a statement during the debate.

A video of Karim and another division member, Anuar Abd Hamid, debating the motion at the division meeting went viral after being uploaded on Facebook.

Anuar said the motion was unanimously accepted on that day, and urged Najib to quit in order to save Umno.

"It was unanimously accepted. After a thunderous applause for the delegate, we went for vote and it was accepted unanimously," he told The Malaysian Insider.

Anuar, 64, a branch chief for more than a decade, also urged that the issue on

1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) be resolved quickly.

He proposed the setting up of a royal commission of inquiry (RCI) to investigate the issue, which he said affected the party's image.

"Set up the RCI, investigate quickly. Now, the witnesses have disappeared, how to solve this 1MDB issue?" he asked.

The Merbok division meeting on August 22, according to Anuar, was attended by some 600 delegates from more than 130 branches.

It was opened by Umno Supreme Council member Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi.

On August 16, Tampin Umno Youth unanimously approved a motion urging Najib to quit as the prime minister and Umno president.

The emergency motion was tabled by Kampung Ulu Ladang Umno Youth member, Azman Abdullah, and received support from more than 200 members. – August 25, 2015.

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