

**Obama backs Najib's administration, says Umno minister**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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**BY MUZLIZA MUSTAFA**

US president Barack Obama's silence over Putrajaya's sedition blitz against critics is proof of his support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's administration, Federal Territory Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor said, even as an influential daily in the US criticised Obama for saying little about the crackdown.

"Now we know the truth – that Obama supports whatever action Datuk Seri Najib Razak is taking.

"All these stories (on the sedition blitz) are the doing of the opposition. It is their aim to make our country look bad abroad," Tengku Adnan, who is Umno secretary-general, said today.

Expressing his thanks to Obama for supporting Najib's actions as a leader of a multiracial and multiracial country, Tengku Adnan said: "Whatever Datuk Seri Najib is doing, it is for the good of the country."

Yesterday, The Washington Post in its editorial had urged Obama to uphold his pledge to defend democracy by turning his attention to the events taking place in Malaysia.

Referring to his speech in the United Nations in September, The Washington Post quoted Obama as promising "an even stronger campaign to defend democracy", and stepping up to defend persecuted activists and "oppose efforts by foreign governments to restrict freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression".

Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor tells reporters that US President Barack Obama supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's administration. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Afif Abd Halim, November 2, 2014. Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor tells reporters that US President Barack Obama supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's administration. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Afif Abd Halim, November 2, 2014. The paper had said, however, that there had been little to show for such strong words from the president, especially seeing that Malaysia, a US ally, had launched an extraordinary crackdown on opposition politicians, academics and journalists in the past two months.

It had criticised the Obama administration for cultivating Najib and Malaysia as part of its policy of "rebalancing" toward Asia, yet having little to say about the political crackdown.

The US embassy in Malaysia, however, in a statement on October 17, expressed concern over the use of the Sedition Act and reminded Putrajaya to keep its promise to repeal the law.

Another Umno minister, Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, had previously told Washington not to interfere or question Putrajaya's use of the colonial-era law.

He said Malaysia was a sovereign nation and should be given the right to decide on the laws necessary to maintain peace in a multiracial country.

"I remind all parties, including the United States, that our country's future, security and harmony between the races are not their responsibility.

"It is ours, so let us bear this burden and responsibility," the minister in charge of housing, urban wellbeing and local government was quoted as saying in Malay daily Sinar Harian.

"Leave us to make the decision whether to retain or abolish the Sedition Act," he said.  
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