

**Nazri supporting Zahid as next PM shows power tussle in Umno, says
Kit Siang
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By Melati A. Jalil**

Datuk Seri Najib Razak may not serve full term as prime minister since there are signs of a power struggle within Umno, DAP's Lim Kit Siang said today.

This came after an Umno minister was reported as saying that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi could be Najib's successor.

Lim, who is also DAP's parliamentary leader, said Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz's backing of Zahid as the next prime minister was an indication of an intensifying power struggle within Umno and the rightful person to hold the top post.

"Power tussle in Umno may indicate that he (Nazri) declared support for Zahid as next prime minister and it may indicate that Najib may not serve the full term," Lim said on the sideline of the 5th National Conference on Non-Discrimination in Bangsar today.

Malaysiakini yesterday reported Nazri as saying that he supported Zahid and vowed to ensure the deputy prime minister would be the successor of Najib.

"If Najib steps down, then surely there will be an internal struggle over who will become prime minister.

"But I am a supporter of Zahid Hamidi. He is the deputy prime minister and he will also become the prime minister," Nazri was quoted as saying.

He said the key players in Umno's power tussle were the 300 Umno chieftains who mostly made up the party's Supreme Council members and division leaders.

"Although structurally it will appear difficult to unseat Najib from inside Umno, if there are ways and means whereby Umno members can have their views heard, it is something Umno leadership should take into account," he said, adding that Umno at the moment does not allow its grassroots to speak out.

He also opined that Nazri's statement would unlikely influence BN MPS in vote of no confidence against Najib in Parliament.

"As far as no-confidence vote is concern, it will be unlikely that there will be Umno and BN MPs to cross over, to support the motion," he said.

Lim said it appeared that the 300 Umno chieftains were largely in Najib's pocket.

"So it will depend on what's happening inside the internal dynamics in Umno politics."

He said if BN or Umno MPs crossed over, new political scenario would take place.

When asked who would Pakatan Harapan support to be the new prime minister to replace Najib, Kit Siang said the opposition pact did not want another "Najib" to hold the position.

"What we want to see in particular, if Najib is replaced, there will be no Najib 2 or Najib 3 and the repetition of these abuses of power, disregard for the principles of good governance." he said. – October 29, 2015.

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