

Najib Wants Loyalty not Confrontation
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- UMNO president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today 'demanded' of UMNO senior leaders and members to be loyal to the leadership and avoid confrontation for the sake of the party.

He cited clauses 9.8.2 and 9.8.3 of the party's constitution, which demanded of the deputy president and vice presidents to be loyal and to assist the president particularly in the face of criticisms and accusations.

Delivering his policy speech before 2,654 delegates at the UMNO General Assembly 2015, Najib stressed that UMNO members must also abide by and support the party's principles and policies.

"But for me, I am a gentleman, whatever the confusion, let's sit down and discuss. Let's settle it in an appropriate manner," he said.

In the audience were senior party leaders including deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, vice president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had heavily criticised his leadership.

The delegates could be seen chanting, "Hidup Najib!" as the UMNO president delivered his speech while the three leaders who had criticised his leadership did not display any reaction.

"Everyone knows this Najib Razak...I am not a person who is confrontational. I have also never caused anyone's downfall, what more to betray this beloved party," he said.

Najib also called to mind, his loyalty towards the UMNO leadership during the crisis in 1987, which was then under Tun Dr Mahathir. He remembered that he was at the crossroads to decide whether to 'follow the leader'.

But "full of love and respect" for Dr Mahathir who was at the time defending his positions as UMNO president and prime minister, Najib stood firm in his allegiance to his leader.

He said it was incumbent on him to pledge his allegiance to the leader which was also cited in the teachings of the Al-quran and sayings of the prophet, among others.

In this regard, he said UMNO members must not separate the principles of leadership and allegiance which are actually intertwined.

Najib had of late been the brunt of condemnations relating to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB) and the RM2.6 billion fund, and UMNO's affairs.

He came under fire not only from the opposition but also from senior members of his own party.

As his speech ended, the delegates got up and pledged their solidarity to the leadership. Dr Mahathir, Muhyiddin and Shafie also stood up with the delegates.

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