

I never toppled anyone, I backed Dr Mahathir in 1987 party crisis, says Najib
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By Muzliza Mustafa

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak today said despite facing a difficult situation in 1987 over the selection of the party president, he had backed then prime minister and his current number one critic Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to retain his post.

"Throughout my career as a politician and administration officer, everyone knows that Najib Razak is non-confrontational. I also never toppled anyone or betrayed the party," said Najib when officiating the opening of the Umno general assembly.

He said those in politics were well aware of history, and that in 1987, he was in a difficult position to pick sides in choosing the party leadership.

"But with lots of love and respect, I chose to remain loyal to Tun Dr Mahathir's leadership, to uphold his post as the president and retain his position as the prime minister," said Najib.

Najib has been under heavy fire from the former prime minister over his brainchild, state-owned investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and the RM2.6 billion "donation" into his personal bank accounts.

1MDB has been the subject of multiple investigations amid allegations of financial mismanagement and graft.

Najib, who also chairs the 1MDB advisory board, has resisted calls for him to step down, promising that an ongoing restructuring will settle the investor's debts.

Najib in his policy speech today at Umno general assembly 2015 says he is still a human being with strengths and weaknesses.

"But to me, I am a gentleman, whatever problems, come meet up, discuss and we can solve it using the right channel," said Najib.

He also reiterated the 1MDB controversy was being dealt with, adding that in any problem, there was always a solution. – December 10, 2015.

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