

PAS, Umno can build a 'perfect' Malaysia, says Najib
Malaysian Insider
Dec 10, 2015
By Anisah Shukry

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak today offered Islamist party PAS the chance to work with Umno to build a "perfect" Malaysia.

In his policy speech at the Umno general assembly, Najib who is also prime minister said PAS had been unceremoniously "kicked out" of the opposition coalition.

"We in Umno were relieved and happy when PAS was no longer with the opposition coalition.

"With an open heart and independent soul, we offer them a relationship (tali silaturrahim), we offer a brotherhood (ikatan ukhuwah) towards building a perfect Malaysia," said Najib, prompting cheers from delegates.

Najib added that even the Quran mentioned how love may turn into hate one day, and hate may turn into love.

He said it was important for the ummah, or Muslim brotherhood, to stay united.

He also quoted an Islamic scholar from Penang, Sheikh Abdullah Fahim, who had urged all Muslims to repair their relationships and unite as that was the sole weapon to strengthen Islam and the unity of Malays and Muslims.

"However, even as we are pushing for a united ummah, the most important and ultimate thing is that we must support efforts to unite Umno from within, first," he said.

PAS is not part of the opposition pact, Pakatan Harapan, formed to replace Pakatan Rakyat which collapsed after a fallout between PAS and former ally DAP.

PAS's conservative leadership has long been flirting with the idea of cooperation with Umno for the sake of Islam and the Malays, although its formal stance is against joining the party, its arch-rival in vying for the Malay-Muslim vote.

With the exception of three, none of PAS's federal lawmakers voted down Najib's national budget for 2016 tabled in the last Dewan Rakyat sitting, breaking ranks with other opposition parties in Pakatan Harapan who voted down the budget after the policy stage.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has also said the Islamist party will not support a motion of no confidence against Najib. – December 10, 2015.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/with-open-heart-najib-offers-to-work-with-pas>