

**Najib defends decision to hold Umno Supreme Council meeting on Parliament grounds**  
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**By Ram Anand**

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the party's supreme council "had" to hold its meeting within the Parliament's vicinity today as party leaders needed to be available in case of "split voting" during proceedings in the lower house, which was in the midst of its final sitting for the year.

Najib, who is also the prime minister, said the move was not "out of the ordinary" as opposition parties have done the same in the past.

"It is not something unusual. We did not have the meeting in Parliament itself, but within the compound," he told reporters after chairing the meeting of Umno's highest decision-making body.

"The opposition has done this before as well."

The opposition pact, Pakatan Harapan, regularly holds its secretariat meetings at the parliamentary opposition leader's office, which is located at a different building within the Parliament compound.

Pakatan had attempted to vote out Najib's federal budget when it was due to be passed from policy stage, but lost the vote.

It can still call for split voting for individual ministries during committee stage before the Budget is fully passed next week. – November 24, 2015.

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