

Zahid : PM Najib Has 'Extraordinary' Patience

Bernama

Feb 17, 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has an 'extraordinary' level of calmness and patience even when facing difficult challenges throughout his 40-year political career.

His deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said that throughout the 30 years that he has known the Prime Minister, including as his Political Secretary, party colleague, and even more like brothers, he had seen a lot of the extraordinary patience that Najib had in tackling pressure.

"Among them was in 1987, when after only 17 days of becoming his Political Secretary, three UMNO Youth Exco members were detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) including former Pasir Mas Member of Parliament, Datuk Ibrahim Ali for wanting to hold a gathering following problems with the MCA leader.

"His (Najib's) name might have been included in the list of individuals to be detained. I personally saw his calmness when responding to questions asked by the police. It reflects the patience inherent in a future top leader," he said in his speech when launching the book 'Najib Razak 40 Years 40 Pictures' at the KL Sentral Station, Wednesday.

Najib's political career began after the sudden death of his father, the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein on Jan 14, 1976, when he won the Pekan Parliamentary seat, held by his late father, when he was 22 years old.

Ahmad Zahid also recalled how Najib remained patient and calm even when facing emergency situations involving his personal safety when he fell headlong in the car when his driver braked suddenly to avoid a group of goats while travelling to Pahang.

"At that time, he (Najib) was asleep in the car. The sudden braking by his driver caused him (Najib) to fall headlong...I thought he would get angry, instead he asked what was the speed of the car.

"His driver replied the speed of the car was about 200km/hour. I could see his ears getting red and expected that he would sack the driver but he (Najib) instead said cynically that his driver was driving like a Cessna aircraft wanting to take off, before returning to sleep," said Ahmad Zahid who was also in the vehicle then.

Ahmad Zahid described Najib as a very caring person who still remembered all the former UMNO Youth divisional leaders and cared about their welfare until now.

Commenting on the book, Ahmad Zahid said the compilation of the photographs and articles in the book was most apt to be turned into a reference to know the Prime Minister closer.

The 'coffee table' book published by The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Bhd (NSTP) in

conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Najib's political career, displayed 40 exclusive photographs of Najib, where some of them had not been shown to the public.

The photo collection immortalized the significant moments in the Prime Minister's political career from the important date of Feb 21, 1976 when he won the Pekan Parliamentary seat in place of his father, until today.

The 112-page book also contained brief articles and interesting photographs including the time when Najib was the Pahang Menteri Besar, deputy minister and minister in numerous portfolios including the Defence Ministry.

It also contains photographs of the prime minister with his family members especially the happy times with the late Tun Razak, including several interesting shots showing the similarities in appearance and style between the father and son.

The book costing RM140 per copy also recorded Najib's leadership thrust which is people-oriented, that is the photograph showing Najib delving into the pulse of the people.

Besides the book, there were also displays of selected photographs of the Prime Minister at the KL Sentral beginning today until Feb 21 while the same event will also be held at Universiti Malaysia Pahang from Feb 21 until 25.

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