

Selected Quotes of Najib in His 40 Years in Politics

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- For Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Sunday Feb 21 marks the 40th anniversary of his involvement in politics.

Having won the Pekan seat, held by his late father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, when he was just 22, Najib has climbed up the political ladder and assumed various positions, including Youth and Sports Minister, Education Minister, Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister before being appointed as the sixth Prime Minister in April 3, 2009.

Throughout his political career, his words of advice have been an inspiration for many. Following are some of these quotable quotes:

"The cause to empower the Malay language does not end with the country gaining independence. The struggle is ongoing for Malay to be made a language of knowledge, information technology, and science and technology." (Jan 15, 1998, in his speech as Minister of Education at the annual assembly of the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka)

"We must safeguard the sovereignty of our country, and our friends in ASEAN should not misinterpret that we shelter terrorist groups and liberators from their countries." (April 16, 2001, in his speech as Minister of Defence in conjunction with the Tokoh Maal Hijrah 1422 Award)

"If we fail to plan for the development of today's youth, we are actually planning for the decline of our people in the future." (May 14, 2004, in his speech as the Deputy Prime Minister in conjunction with the opening of the National Youth Convention 2004)

"Each and every Malaysian must enjoy the right to have quality education ... and that right is a process that has taken place in our education system." (Aug 28, 2007, in his speech as Deputy Prime Minister after receiving the ABE-Edward de Bono International Gold Medal (Educator) Award 2007)

"Give me a line-up of leaders who are strong and able. Give me a team that possesses loyalty, integrity, ability and dedication." (March 24, 2009, in his speech as UMNO Deputy President when simultaneously opening the Wanita, Youth and Puteri UMNO delegates' conferences) "People First will transcend people of all walks of life and ethnic groups in every part of the country. No one should feel they are being dropped or left behind from the national discourse." (April 3, 2009, in his acceptance speech as the Prime Minister) "I urge all citizens to embark on a great journey together to transform the country in the spirit of "1Malaysia. People First. Performance Now." (April 3, 2009, in his acceptance speech as the Prime Minister)

"1Malaysia is a concept to foster unity in Malaysians of all races based on several important values which should become the practice of every Malaysian." (June 15, 2009, when replying to a question in the Dewan Rakyat) "The government is always transparent and we are aware of the principle of accountability. We will discharge our duty in a transparent manner because the people will evaluate

and decide whether or not we can fulfill our promises to them." (Jan 28, 2010, when launching the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) Roadmap)

"When we speak of a developed and high-income nation, the element that can support this objective is none other than our capability in terms of intellectual capital and skills." (March 12, 2010, when addressing academicians, administrative officers and staff and students of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

"Please remember that Malaysia is our homeland, this is the place where we were born, the place where we grow up, where we find our livelihood, and the place where we create success and where we shall be laid to rest." (Aug 30, 2010, in his 53rd National Day message)

"UMNO will never allow the Malays to be a helpless race and strangers in their own land." (Oct 21, 2010, when opening the UMNO General Assembly 2010)

"We have never tried to destroy any culture, or tried to change anybody's origin. Until now, each of us is free to retain our identity." (Dec 5, 2010, in his keynote address at the Barisan Nasional Convention) "Muslims must act to correct the situation. We must act to give the true picture of Islam as a sacred, beautiful and attractive religion. Hence, we need to be media-savvy to realise our objective." (Dec 7, 2010, when launching the country's first Islamic television station, TV Al Hijrah, at Pusat Islam Complex)

"Today, at the international level, Felda can be regarded as a multinational corporation which we can be proud of." (Aug 16, 2013, at the launch of the National Settlers Day celebration and Felda Integrity Plan)

"All UMNO members, all party champions, please rise. UMNO is the party which strengthens the natives; UMNO is the true gentleman's party." (Dec 7, 2013, when winding up debate at the conclusion of the 2013 UMNO General Assembly)

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