

**UMNO Not Born Out Of Hatred, Frustration - Najib
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JELEBU, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- UMNO is not a party born out of hatred, frustration and an attempt to topple a leader, says Prime Minister and UMNO president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Instead, he said UMNO is a sacred party born on the steps of the Istana Besar Johor, in the echoes and soared spirit of patriotism of the Malays to reject colonialism and to defend their dignity and honour.

"UMNO was not born out of hatred, UMNO was not born out of frustration, UMNO was not born in an attempt to topple a leader. If those were the foundations of our struggle, then what we have done were not based on the idealism of fighting for something noble and sacred.

"Without a clear aspiration, or with only anger, hatred and unfulfilled personal ambition, the struggle will not last long," he said when opening the Jelebu UMNO divisional delegates' meeting and 'Sehati Sejiwa' People's Feast at Kuala Klawang Mini Stadium here today.

Also present were Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar and UMNO Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Jelebu UMNO chief Datuk Jalaluddin Alias and Social and Cultural Affairs Adviser to the Government, Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim.

Najib said UMNO had been able to stand the tests of time and continue to be the core thrust of the government because of its idealism of struggle.

"Whether we were fighting communist insurgents or facing the economic downturn, UMNO has been able to stand strong because we have an aspiration to protect our dignity and honour," he said.

Meanwhile, the prime minister said the action taken by certain quarters in initiating a referendum and a declaration against him would not benefit the people in any way.

"The people cannot live with this kind of politics...the people can live when we give them aid and assistance, such as the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), schooling aid, mini projects, 'duit Raya', bonus and the likes of it.

"These are the matters that would ensure people's welfare and wellbeing, not all those useless (referendum and declaration) things," he said.

In another development, the prime minister said Malaysia had also become an exemplary model to other countries in the aspects of security and peace.

He said the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had also witnessed how Malaysia was chosen as the mediator to achieve the agenda.

"This morning, I received a message saying that the peace process in the southern Philippines will continue...it's amazing when the roadmap in the implementation of the Bangsamoro Peace Deal will be discussed in Kuala Lumpur...it means that they look up to us as a 'big brother'.

"They will not do this if our country is in chaos or if we have no important roles to play in the region...but the Government of the Philippines and the MILF respect us, the government led by UMNO and BN (Barisan Nasional)," he said.

Najib also expressed his appreciation to the undivided support given by Jelebu UMNO for his leadership as UMNO president and prime minister.

"It sent shivers down my spine...(to see people) supporting me in all occasions. I want the mandate from the people to continue doing my job. Do not disturb me, I am responsible for 30 million people.

"Let lightning strikes reach the ground on Earth, I wont budge an inch...no retreat no surrender!!! We are on the right track. If something is wrong, we will make it right together, but not to the extent of destroying our house, our political institution.

"This is our house, built with tears, sweat and blood by our forefathers for us and for our future generation. We must defend this house or we may not have anything else to pass on to our children," he said.

Approximately 15,000 people, including UMNO and BN component party members, as well as state executive councillors attended the feast.

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