

**Independence Celebration Not Just About Flying National Flag - PM Najib
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TASEK GELUGOR (Penang), Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today urged Malaysians to safeguard independence and national sovereignty under any circumstances.

He said the independence month was to be appreciated not just by flying the national flag but by instilling in one's self the feeling of safeguarding independence and national sovereignty.

"We must safeguard our independence, we must safeguard our sovereignty. We must stand tall as a dignified and sovereign nation. We have to uphold these values," he said.

The UMNO president and Barisan Nasional chairman gave the advice when opening the Tasek Gelugor UMNO delegates meeting and simultaneously launching a Penang BN book on independence, here.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah; Second Minister of International Trade and Industry and MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan; Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican; Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya; Penang UMNO Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Seri Zainal Abidin Osman and Penang BN chairman Teng Chang Yeow were among those present at the event.

Najib said safeguarding independence and national sovereignty was one of the fundamental struggles of UMNO which every member should uphold.

As such, he said, UMNO would continue to champion and safeguard independence and national sovereignty as well as continue to uphold the dignity of the party to carry on administrating the country.

He said loyalty to the party and its leaders was a traditional value that was the cornerstone of the party that had kept it in power.

"These are the noble values in the party," he said.

Najib praised the party members who had come early to attend the event, and had to endure the heat and limited number of seats to listen to their leaders, shake hands with them and even take photographs with them.

He said many of them were not even thinking of wanting to be the people's representatives or a menteri besar or the prime minister or hoping to secure a contract, but they came because they loved the party.

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