

**History Shows Loyalty to Leadership Crucial To UMNO, Says Najib**  
**Bernama**  
**Dec 1, 2016**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) - Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak took the delegates on a journey through critical moments in the history of UMNO to show how loyalty to the top leadership had saved the party and made it stronger.

He referred to the Wala' (fidelity) Principle which concerns the values of loyalty and accord and which looks upon the top post in the party or government as an institution.

"The fidelity and loyalty to the institution which I occupy is due to the responsibilities that it bears and the trust that party members and Malaysians place on it," the UMNO president and Prime Minister said.

Najib said that he himself had always adhered to this principle as was the case during the 1987 UMNO crisis when the party was split right down the middle between Team A and Team B.

Although he was "very close" to Team B leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and "will forever respect him", he chose to side with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (who was then Datuk Seri).

"I did this based purely on the wala' principle and its demand of loyalty to the party president," Najib said.

Another "dark episode" that he recalled was the Kuala Lumpur High Court decision to declare UMNO an illegal organisation.

"Who during this critical and scary period stood firm behind Dr Mahathir and helped him as the party president until the new UMNO was officially accepted?" Najib said.

"Who else ... who else if not us, the people of UMNO," he said to loud applause.

Dr Mahathir gave him the task of activating the Youth machinery to recruit members.

When the country was suffering the 1997-1998 Asian Financial Crisis, who supported every decision that Dr Mahathir made? Najib asked.

"None other than us...we are the loyal people of UMNO," he said.

But now, the once eminent statesman has turned against the party that he led for decades, said Najib.

He said the former prime minister and UMNO president was now allied to DAP, PKR and Parti Amanah Negara, and was involved in the recent illegal Bersih gathering, and - worse still - was in league with foreign enemies of the country.

These foreigners include billionaire George Soros,"whom he hated and whom he asked us to hate as a currency rogue", Najib said.

"...this is the height of treason against UMNO, his race and his country."

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 216 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1307832>