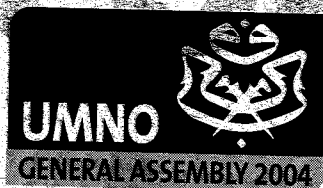




MY CARD: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi pointing to his Umno smart card yesterday while Najib (left) and Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein look on.

Eight-point plan for success



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KUALA LUMPUR: An eight-point master plan to ensure the success of the Malays, which will at the same time benefit the other races, has been outlined by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Stressing on the need to ensure that the country's wealth was evenly distributed, the incoming deputy Umno president said first on the list was to strengthen the economic status of the Malays.

"The Malays have yet to achieve the targets of the New Economic Policy despite having political control. When the community succeeds in the economic sector, it will ensure stability and also benefit non-Malays.

"We must ensure that the country's wealth is evenly distributed," he said at the joint opening of the party's Wanita, Youth and Puteri assemblies.

Malay interests in the economic cake in terms of capital control, per capita income and the number of bumiputra entrepreneurs as compared against the non-bumiputra share, was not that encouraging, he said.

"The Malays are still not at par with the non-Malays in all aspects," said Najib, who is the Deputy Prime Minister.

The other points Najib raised in his Malay agenda were:

- Practising noble values to achieve racial harmony;
- Mastering knowledge and education;
- Mastering foreign languages;
- Choosing leaders based on merits;
- Being good followers;
- Embracing a culture of meritocracy; and
- Developing a progressive Islam (Islam Hadhari) society.

Najib said Malays must practise good values in order to achieve racial harmony and change their traditional mindset from that of a lackadaisical attitude to bring about a "precision society."

He said they should also move away from superstitious beliefs to scientific ones and their thinking from emotional to rational.

"This way the Malays will be able to handle the global environment without

sacrificing their identity and religion."

Najib reminded them of the trials and tribulations faced by the first Felda settlers who had to overcome great odds to be where they are today.

He said after nearly 50 years, the settlers had prospered and at the same time steered Malaysia into having the largest rubber and oil palm plantations in the world.

"Felda settlers to date, had contributed RM8.5bn to the country's annual revenue and supply 12.5% of the world's palm oil needs," he said.

Mastering foreign languages, he added, would make the Malays more competitive, informative and scientific.

On choosing leaders, Najib said they should be based on merits for any mistake on their choice would have a negative effect that could tarnish the party.

Najib said the Malays must embrace the meritocracy culture to enable them to compete with the other ethnic groups.