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Najib: Barisan has to work harder for polls

JOHOR BARU, Sat. - While confident that the Barisan Nasional will win the next general election, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the component parties need to work harder as the challenges facing them "are also greater".

"These (the greater challenges) we have to admit," he told newsmen after meeting with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia department and unit heads in Skudai.

He was asked on the statement by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, that he was confident the BN would continue to form the Government although the huge majority enjoyed in the 1995 general election might not be repeated.

Dr Mahathir said this in Tokyo in a question-answer session with corporate and bank leaders, academicians and journalists, yesterday.

Najib, who is also Education Minister, said: "I see that the Prime Minister was throwing a challenge at us, to step up our efforts."

He said in a general election the people should always consider the larger issues such as the future of the country and political stability.

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