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Decision to strengthen Umno

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to concentrate more on Umno's affairs and less of the Government, should be seen as a move to strengthen the party.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the move would enable Dr Mahathir to approach the grassroots and meet all levels of society.

This, he said, will also enable the premier to receive more feedback from the public on any recent political development in the country.

"Ultimately this will serve as a platform for him (Dr Mahathir) to explain Umno's aspirations to the public following various attempts by the opposition to twist the facts," he added.

Najib told reporters this when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement recently that he would now concentrate more on Umno's affairs than the Government, adding that it was part of the transition process of the national leadership.

Adding that he might not take part in some government functions, Dr Mahathir said he would leave certain tasks to his deputy (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi).

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