

'Smooth transition a boon to stability'

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PEKAN: The smooth transition of power in the country will boost the image of Malaysia's political stability and maturity on the world stage, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said the change of leadership from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Prime Minister was also peaceful, reflecting the hard work and preparation over the past

16 months.

"The smooth transition augurs well for Malaysia's political stability and maturity of the people.

"In fact, it is a unique moment for our country," said Najib after attending a *buka puasa* with villagers at Kampung Seri Makmur, Jaya Gading, near here on Saturday.

Najib said he was happy that there were no negative elements, which had threatened to disrupt the process in the change of leadership, and he hoped that the peaceful situa-

tion would help Barisan Nasional to win in the next general election.

"The people can be assured of Abdullah's leadership and all Umno leaders and members have given their support.

"Umno leaders have also indicated to Abdullah that they will hold fast to Dr Mahathir's advice to party members that we need to stay together and support our leaders, and that we should work as a team under Abdullah's leadership," Najib added.