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Malaysia blessed with 'right leaders'

KUALA KEDAH, Fri. - Malaysia is blessed with continued prosperity as it has been led by five prime ministers who each served in the appropriate era of the nation's history.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told a huge crowd at Taman Sri Putra that Malaysia was fortunate to have such leaders, from Tunku Abdul Rahman to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who "came at the right time".

"The country has been led by leaders who are most suited to a specific era in the nation's history. We got 'rahmat' (blessings) from the presence of Tunku Abdul Rahman at a time when we needed a leader who could, in his own way, unite our diverse people.

"His ability to unite the people did not give the British any reason to deny us independence," he told a gathering of fishermen and farmers.

Najib said Malaysia continued to be blessed with capable prime ministers including Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who served the country for 22 years.

"A native son of Kedah, Tun Dr Mahathir contributed a lot to the State's development. It would not be wrong for me to say that Kedah would not have been as developed as now if not for his contributions."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is poised to carry on the country's tradition of great prime ministers.

"With his (Abdullah's) famous words - 'work with me and not for me' - and his focus on rural development and the eradication of poverty, I am confident his leadership will be successful."

Najib said the country was led by capable leaders because the people had chosen correctly.

Malaysia, he said, continued to be prosperous and peaceful. The country, he noted, also did not have to spend billions of ringgit for its defence.

Among those present were Najib's wife Datuk Rosmah Mansor, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, State Secretary Datuk Wira Ku Nahar Ku Ibrahim, Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Najib urged the people to continue supporting the Barisan Nasional Government to ensure development could be sustained.

In a clear reference to Pas, he said BN would not lie to the people like promising a place in heaven for those who supported it.

"We don't practise politics of slogans, banners and ceramah and do not deliver anything for the people. Our promise is that with your support, we will work hard to ensure the country remained peaceful and prosperous."

Najib later handed out food packages donated by the Kedah Regional Development Authority to some 200 hardcore poor people.