

10/01/2003

Najib: I'll ensure smooth transition of power

SEREMBAN, Thurs. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he will ensure a smooth transition of power after Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down in October.

"I am one of the leaders who has said many times that I will give my undivided support to (deputy Umno president) Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the next Prime Minister.

"We will work as a team. I will play my role to prove what (Pas acting president Datuk Seri) Abdul Hadi (Awang) claimed is wrong."

Hadi, who is also Terengganu Menteri Besar, had said that there would be a power struggle in Umno once Dr Mahathir steps down.

Najib added that Umno leaders would ensure that the party remained strong and relevant not only to the Malays but also to other races in the country and in the international community.

He said this at a gathering attended by 3,000 Seremban Umno leaders and members at the Seremban Municipal Council last night.

Also present were State Umno liaison committee chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad, Seremban Umno chief Datuk Ishak Ismail and Jelebu Umno chief Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.