

## **Time for Umno to rally behind Najib, says Nazri**

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**By Rajvinder Singh, G Surach, The Malay Mail**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has done a fantastic job in helping BN march to victory despite a major onslaught by Pakatan Rakyat, senior Umno members and political analysts said.

They said it was now time for Umno to stand behind Najib and let him continue with his transformation programme and further unite the country.

NONEMohd Nazri Abdul Aziz (left)said the opposition had described the 13th general election as the "mother of all elections" but Najib still managed to lead BN to form a strong government.

"This is a remarkable achievement because after the 2008 tsunami, no general election was going to be easy," the Padang Rengas MP said.

"It was a hard fought battle and the prime minister has helped BN take back the state of Kedah from PAS."

Nazri said that in this time of "crisis" there should not be any talk of changing the leadership of Umno.

He said that it was in times like this that Umno members needed to rally behind their leader.

Umno supreme council member Azalina Othman Said called on all BN leaders to re-look its policies and strategies that the government had implemented previously.

"Following the results of the general election, I find that the disparity between urban and rural voters is very obvious. BN does not want to be known as a rural-based coalition but a coalition that appeals to all forms of society," she said when contacted by The Malay Mail yesterday.

umno supreme council special meeting 260809 azalina othmanThe Penggerang MP (left) said that BN cannot afford to let the issue of racial polarisation, following the results, to continue in the next five years.

"It is clear not all rakyat want government assistance and that they want to be free from any encumbrances.

"Therefore, the government must find other means to regain its relevance to these people," she said.

Asked on the question of the leadership being affected following the GE13 results, Azalina said that would not be in question if the suggested reforms are carried out.

Prof Azmi Hassan, a geostrategist, said that the outcome of the elections cannot solely be blamed on Najib because the BN component parties did not do enough to win over the voting public.

"It's not Najib's fault and he is the best prime minister that we have had in a long time and Umno members must support him," he said.

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