

PM: No one should hijack my obligation to lead

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak took potshots at his former mentor Dr Mahathir Mohamad, vowing not to allow his position to be hijacked or taken by any individual.

Speaking at the Tunku Abdul Rahman lecture series, Najib said the prime minister's position is an office he will continue to serve with humility.

Clearly aiming at Mahathir, even while not naming him, Najib lambasted his "eminent" critic for saying he was chosen as leader out of gratitude for late premier Abdul Razak Hussein.

"People say or sometimes say that I was groomed for leadership from an early age. But that is not quite the truth. One person went so far as to say that he supported me out of gratitude to my father.

"It is a sacred trust, and no one should attempt to interfere with or hijack that obligation to lead.

"For it is the people who elected me, and I am proud and humbled to bear that mandate – which is the people's to give or to take away. It does not belong to any individual, however eminent.

"But I will not serve one man. It is my job to serve the people," he told the audience in Kuala Lumpur tonight.

Najib's list of achievements

Mahathir had been criticising Najib saying that Malaysia's future, as well as that of Umno and BN, would be grim if the prime minister continue to helm the nation.

On Monday, the former premier also accused the man he endorsed to replace his successor as having "stolen the government".

In his speech, Najib listed down all his achievements since 2009 and said that his administration had managed to keep Malaysia stable, safe, and respected.

He also said the economic climate is healthy and on course to achieve developed nation status by 2020.

Malaysia, he added, has also received international recognition from the likes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other regulatory bodies.

"The IMF does not hand out compliments lightly. Nor do the ratings agencies. Yet in January, Moody's maintained Malaysia's A3 rating with a positive outlook.

"In February, Standard and Poor's maintained Malaysia's A-rating with a stable outlook. And more recently, Fitch maintained Malaysia's A-rating - and actually upgraded its outlook from negative to stable," he said.

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