

UMNO Members Must Rise Up To Redeem Defeat In Selangor
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SHAH ALAM -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak last night urged Selangor Umno members to forget about losing Selangor to the opposition in 2008 and rise up again to recapture the state for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next election which was "just around the corner".

Najib, who is also Umno president as well as Selangor Umno chief, said to ensure the BN took back the state, Selangor Umno members must use whatever "weapon was at their disposal".

"We must not allow our image to continue to be besmirched and wallow because of the defeat. We must bounce back with a renewed determination to redeem ourselves," he said at an "Evening with the Leaders" gathering organised by Selangor Umno Veterans Club, here.

He said if Umno could defeat the British in securing independence for the country, winning back Selangor was not too big a task for Selangor Umno.

Najib also reminded that under the democratic system, a party could not be assured of remaining in power forever.

"We must learn from history, because politics is a game of perception and numbers. "For example, a state might have Malay majority voters, but it won't mean a thing if they are disunited," he said.

On Umno veterans, he said age was not an issue as there was no end to a political struggle.

"We owe a lot to Selangor Umno veterans. It is because of their leadership Selangor is the most advanced state in Malaysia today," he said.

(Bernama)