

We Have Always Championed Democracy In Malaysia, Says Najib
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PUTRAJAYA -- Najib Tun Razak said the government was always committed to the democracy system and at the same time will not tolerate anarchy, rioting and disturbance of public order in the country.

Speaking to reporters after breaking fast with diplomats and Foreign Ministry staff here on Friday, the prime minister said events around the world has shown that law and order cannot be taken for granted.

"We have always championed democracy in Malaysia from day one and if we look back, there was a pivotal moment in our history which is May 13th (1969) and my late father had all the powers vested in one person.

"The power of the executive, legislator, the powers of cabinet and parliament and he alone could decide. And he decided legislation should become law. He decided that if today is legislation, tomorrow it becomes law and at that moment I was just a school boy.

"And he confided in me that he was afraid of all the powers vested on him and I thought that was rather extraordinary. It was not fashionable at that time to surrender powers.

"It was more fashionable to accumulate powers but true to what he told me in the shortest possible time, he returned the power back to the people via the parliament and that was in the 1970's.

"This is the battle we fought for and this is the platform you will continue. We will review many things, review our censorship law, will allow space for dissent but we will not tolerate anarchy," he said.

Najib said no one could have imagined that there would be riots in London, a cradle of democracy.

"I'm not saying that everything is perfect in Malaysia. We are far from it but we are working towards it. We have a long stretch of holidays yet I get request to declare more holidays.

"However, we must be serious in our work and our commitment for Malaysia because we have a big mission, that of to transform Malaysia, and the only way we can do that is to be committed.

"There is no shortcut to success. The only way we can obtain it is if we put our heart and soul in what we are doing. And I can assure you that we are committed," he added.

Also present were Foreign Minister Anifah Aman and Chief Secretary to the Government, Mohd Sidek Hassan.

(Bernama)