

Cultivating right mindset

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno wants to help the Malays change their mindset to compete in the ever-challenging world.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the party would instil positive values such as trustworthiness, intelligence; efficiency and dedication in the Malays to help them, especially the younger generation, cultivate the right mindset.

"In other words, negative values reflecting laziness and half-hearted efforts must be eradicated from the Malay mind," the deputy president said in his speech at the joint opening of the Umno Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings' assemblies last

Scholars have long said we must have the right thinking in order to achieve something. Therefore, the Malay mind must be sharpened and trained to think appropriately and to avoid conflict, embrace harmony and produce excellence," he said,

Najib outlined five ways to accelerate the Malay mind - through transformational leadership, protecting the *aqidah* (faith), changing the minds of young Malays, working as a team, and aiming for the success of the Malay agenda.

Transformational leadership, which was synonymous with

leadership excellence, would help the race to make the quantum leap towards attaining developed status by the year 2020, he said.

Stressing on the importance of teamwork, he said the Malays must be more tolerant and accepting of others' viewpoints and criticism.

"By working as a team that is tolerant and understanding of each other, we will dispel any seed of discord," he said, adding that the Malays must be able to advise each other in line with the principle that the interest of the party was above the interest of individuals.

Najib said Umno was serious in making the Malays excel in education, strong in the economy, resilient in the social sphere and outstanding on the world stage, adding that the Malay agenda would continue to be strengthened in the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Whatever is required for Malay development, we will push for it so that it will be immediately implemented, immediately constructed. What is important is that this great trust that we hold is never manipulated, never leaked and never abandoned.

"At the highest level, the Prime Minister chairs the National Im-

plementation Taskforce (NITF), which is testimony to his commitment in ensuring the success of the Ninth Malaysia Plan," he said.

On protecting the *aqidah*, Najib said Umno has warned irresponsible parties to immediately stop incitement, which could destroy the harmony of races and religions.

"Umno strongly opposes the formation of the so-called Interfaith Council which can threaten the harmony of this country. The question of religion is a sensitive issue and this must be understood by all.

"Therefore, we must all be

extremely cautious in dealing with such matters for the sake of unity. Umno will not waiver from its position as defenders of Islam in this country," he said.

Najib expressed sadness that the younger generation could be too easily influenced by negative elements.

He said there were many young Malays becoming school dropouts, drug abusers, HIV/AIDS sufferers, Mat Rempit and being involved in excessive entertainment, reflecting a third class mentality.

• Full text of Najib's speech on Pages 32 to 34