

Najib says he will help Abdullah

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DATUK Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Umno's deputy president, yesterday said he would help the party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in facing the current huge challenges.

In a statement issued pertaining to the outcome of Saturday's general election, Na-

The people of Malaysia have expressed their stand and made their choice, says Umno's No 2

jib said: "The 12th general election was conducted in a smooth and transparent manner in accordance with the democratic practice of the country. The people of Malaysia have expressed their stand

and made their choice, and we are grateful that the Barisan Nasional (BN) has been given the mandate to administer the country."

He added although the BN is disappointed over its fail-

ure to retain power in five states as well as its failure to obtain a two-third majority (in Parliament), "we accept the people's decision with an open heart."

Najib pledged the BN will continue to strive to regain the confidence of the people.

"We ask Umno members to

close ranks in facing this challenge. As the Deputy President, I will assist the YAB President in facing this big challenge,"

Yesterday, Abdullah was sworn in at in front of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, which was broadcast live. — *Bernama*