

Umno's strength lies in members' loyalty, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Loyalty has remained the hallmark of Umno's strength over the past 50 years, said party deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Its members, he added, had stayed with the party through thick and thin and through every political upheaval.

He said the impact of the party on the Malays over the past five decades had not come by accident.

Rather, it was through the wisdom of the leaders who fought for their well-being, he said when opening the Ampang Umno division meeting here yesterday.

Najib, who is Deputy Prime Minister, told the delegates:

"Never forget our principle to help the Malays. Don't stab people in the back and maintain your loyalty to the leaders and to your party.

"Only then will Umno continue to stay strong," he added.

Najib reiterated his message when he later opened the Sepang Umno division meeting at Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi.

He also reminded party members that they should start campaigning for the next general election since it was "still too early" for the party polls.

"Preparations for the general elections must be given priority. That is

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DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

why we have postponed the party elections.

"It is a long way to go (to Umno elections) and it is not necessary for us to begin too early," he said, commenting on talk that Umno leaders have started going around to campaign for party posts.

Umno was supposed to hold its party election this year but it has deferred it till after the general election.

"It is normal for Umno members to go here and there and visit places but things are still under control," he said.

In his speech, Najib said for the Malays to succeed, they must adhere to good work ethics, be visionary and get into action.

He said while there were already Malays who had found fame and fortune, their number was small.