

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Bumiputra entrepreneurs should shed their old thinking and emerge as new bumiputra entrepreneurs, who can stand on their own feet and do not need to depend on mere handouts.

It would be more honourable and comforting when the new bumiputra entrepreneurs have 100% control of their companies and do not need to seek 30% equity in the companies of others, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday.

They should be bold enough to accept change by drawing up business strategies and not depend on contracts derived from direct negotiations with the government or depend on the people they know, he said.

“Our people (bumiputra entrepreneurs) prefer to go for direct negotiations. I have received many letters myself. And so has the prime minister (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi).

“If we only depend on the ‘know

# Najib dares bumis to reject handouts

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who’ principle, life is going to be difficult,” he said when opening the Wangsa Maju Umno division delegates meeting.

Bernama quoted Najib as saying that Umno does not discriminate against the other communities in its efforts to champion the Malay agenda because the other communities also contribute to the

success of Malaysia, which has earned recognition as a model nation and a benchmark for developing countries.

“We cannot refute Umno’s deeds to the Malays and the nation, which are invaluable. The Malays need a quantum leap in terms of progress and merely running fast to catch up with progress is not enough.”

Najib, who is Umno deputy president, said Umno in the urban areas should play a role in places where it is unrepresented and where there are fewer Malay voters.

“Even when there are no Umno elected representatives, Umno’s presence (in these areas) must be respected and the Malays, despite the smaller percentage, are the

determinant,” he said.

Maria J. Dass reports that Najib urged Umno divisions to gear up to wrest the seats dominated by the DAP in the Kuala Lumpur federal territory in the next general election.

“The Seputeh constituency, for instance, has only about 20% Malays and we (Umno) can aim to make this 20% the deciding factor in winning the seat,” he said.

“We hope to make inroads in Kepong in the same way.”

Najib also said Umno should practise politics with high moral principles and not be like the Opposition which creates something out of nothing.

He was referring to the doctored picture that Parti Keadilan Rakyat information chief Tian Chua had posted on his blog, which made it look like Najib, political analyst Abdul Razak Baginda and Mongolian Altantuya Shaariibuu were dining together. Abdul Razak has been charged with abetting in the murder of Altantuya.