

Najib: Umno represents conscience of Malays

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said Umno is a party that represents "the conscience of the Malays" but which also works with the Barisan Nasional component parties.

"The role of Umno as the party of the conscience of the Malays is because as a party, we always think about the issues and how to develop the Malays," he told reporters after launching the Ampang Umno division delegates conference yesterday.

"But we also work with the component parties and do not ignore them altogether."

In his keynote address earlier, Najib said the party is striving to "urbanise" the Malays.

While this is happening, "we don't

want the Malays in the urban areas to have the slum mentality"

He said some 67% of the Malays are already in the urban areas.

However, while the urbanisation process continues, Umno's battle is not over.

"The pillar for Umno has now moved from being the party of the rural Malays to the party of the urbanised Malays, but the next phase that we have is for the Malays to reflect a successful image," he said.

"We have to defend our party's principles, choose the party over friends and friendships, and hold on to our power, not because of greed but to develop a great, successful and respected civilisation."

Later, the delegates, numbering some 400, presented Najib, who turns 54 today, with a chocolate birthday cake.