

'Feel good factor' will continue: Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: The "feel good factor" that the country is experiencing will continue to be enhanced, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

Najib, who is also Umno deputy president, said yesterday: "The situation in the country has improved a lot based on what the government is doing, whether it is with regards to development or efforts to improve quality of people's life, confidence about the future and support for the country's leadership. Things are changing."

He was speaking to reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting on behalf of party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who is overseas.

Najib said the changes were reflected in the improvement of the public delivery system and the prime minister was

expected to make a major announcement on April 13 with regards to a new land development system which would represent a big paradigm shift.

The meeting also discussed the Machap state by-election which MCA will be contesting. Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ali Rustam briefed the council on the developments and preparations for the by-election.

"BN will put all its efforts into achieving a better result as there are no real local issue affecting the area," Najib said.

On another matter, the council also decided to reinstate Datuk Azkolani Abdul Rahim from Umno Sabah, who was sacked in 1999, and Ikmal Hisham Abdul Aziz from Umno Cheras, who was suspended.

On an allegation that Malaysian

marine police patrols had encroached into Indonesian territorial waters in Ambalat and that Malaysia had apologised to the Indonesian government, Najib said there were two reports saying Malaysia made an apology, one from him (Najib) and the other from Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He denied he had done so.

"In fact, I met him (Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono) recently in Bali and we spoke about several things with regard to rules of engagement. Furthermore, the political relationship at the top level is very good."

On Keadilan adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim alleging during an interview with Al Jazeera that he (Najib) had a hand in approving defence procurements, Najib said: "I don't have to react to Anwar."