

# Najib gives pointers to aspiring young leaders

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»To be a great leader, you must want that position«



DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Young leaders must have a sense of idealism and the drive to command influence before setting out to achieve any goals they may have, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"Being a leader means having something to fight for, and this can be drawn from a person's surroundings and environment," he told the Malaysian Youth Leadership convention here yesterday.

"To be a great leader or a leader of quality or calibre, you must want that position and you must want to lead and influence others so that when you finally reach the position

to effect change, you will definitely carry it out," Najib said.

Drawing from his father's experience, Najib said the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein grew up in poverty and that was when he finally became prime minister, he made it his goal to eradicate poverty.

"The youth of today will become leaders within the next 10 to 20 years and it is extremely important to be both spirited and energetic," he said.

Najib said Malaysia had to prioritise the formation of a generation of young leaders, as it was no point becoming a developed nation if the country failed to produce capable successors.

He said there were four steps stakeholders had to undertake to determine the success of youth – shaping first class human capital by creating knowledgeable youths, shaping positive mindsets, strengthening social harmony and increasing quality of life across the board.

At a press conference later, Najib was asked to comment on the effect of the upcoming Youth Act that would force more than half of the current crop of youth organisation leaders to resign (The Act sets an age limit of 40).

He felt there would not be a big problem as the organisations would be able to introduce new leaders.