

Democracy is alive and well in Malaysia, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ijok by-election showed that democracy is alive and well in the country, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

"The Opposition parties had a huge opportunity to campaign and no one tried to stop them. Their top leaders were assembled there, too," the Deputy Prime Minister

said.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to summarise how the results came to be," he told a press conference at the Defence Ministry yesterday.

To a question, Najib said there was no need to re-look at the process of running elections in the

country after several ugly incidents during the campaigning period.

Everyone, including the ruling party, must follow the law when it comes to political campaigning, he added.

"The political parties must, for example, obtain police permits.

Otherwise the police will have to take action," he said.

Najib added that only a few troublemakers were involved in negative incidents during the campaigning period in Ijok.

News reports said the Ijok by-election was one of the most intense, in which political support-

ers were involved in skirmishes.

Najib's car was even stopped by opposition party supporters while he was going to a polling centre.

Barisan Nasional's K. Parthiban won with a majority of 1,850 votes over Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim after nine days of campaigning.

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