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# Najib: BN must learn from elections to push for reforms

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Lessons from the Barisan Nasional's 12th general election showing must be translated into reforms in public administration, the deputy prime minister said.

Reforms were needed not only in large institutions like the judiciary but also in the thinking and manner of government officials who dealt with the grassroots, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

This was so that people's confidence in the government, which realised that not all reforms had met the people's aspirations, would return, he added.

"We say the economy has grown, but there are segments of society who have not benefited from it.

"We were perhaps too stringent in some aspects, such as when welfare officers visit the homes of poor people and see that these homes have a television and refrigerator, and think that they don't qualify for welfare aid.

"But officers should realise that such things are a necessity today.

"So it ends up that what's on the

ground and what we say don't match," Najib said.

He was speaking to staff of the Prime Minister's Department at their monthly assembly, the first since the general election a month ago.

Najib said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and members of his administration were committed to reform to prove that the Barisan-led government remained the best choice for the future.

Acknowledging the loss of public confidence in the judiciary, he said judicial reform would be discussed to determine the areas to be addressed.

"We are also committed to ensuring our administration gives a fair and just consideration to all segments of society. We will not want to sideline, offend or marginalise anyone.

"One of the characteristics of Malaysians is that they don't show their anger, that is, they won't take to the streets to demonstrate.

"But they keep their feelings inside and when the elections come, they act on them.

"We need to understand the psyche of Malaysians and ensure that each segment of society enjoys the benefits of development."

He said that taking the cue from the people who had "sent the government a clear message" in the elections, more people-centric projects and programmes would be implemented, such as low-cost housing.

He said this was Barisan's best defence against the "populist platform" of the opposition.

"We use approaches that are correct, sensible and prudent from a macro-management perspective, but the opposition promises everything using a populist approach.

"We have to convince the people that our approaches are best in protecting them from rising prices," he said, adding that new measures would be announced soon.

He said the government accepted the results of the elections.

"We will reflect on this. We accept the voice of the people and the message they have sent us."