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Najib: We'll work harder as BN regains support

NOW that Barisan Nasional has done much to regain the confidence of the people, it must not let its guard down.

Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the coalition cannot afford to take it easy and must continue to work hard.

"We are satisfied but it is an ongoing process and we must continue to strive," he said at a press conference after opening the new Malaysian Embassy Complex in Phnom Penh.

He said the final judgment on whether or not BN had met the expectations of the people would only be known from the results of the next general election.

Early indications showed that the people had responded positively and had begun to restore their faith in BN.

"As BN begins to deliver on electoral promises and on stated commitments, its credibility is strengthened in the eyes of the public," he said.

He described BN as a time-tested, genuine partnership of different po-



litical parties striving towards a common goal, as opposed to a hastily cobbled tie-up of ideologically irreconcilable entities solely for political expediency.

Najib said BN understood the need to change the way it engages its stakeholders, primarily the public at large.

"In the last 18 months, the ruling coalition as a whole has undergone significant transformation and the 14 political parties that make up the coalition have made great strides in changing and winning back the affections of the people," he said.

This includes accepting direct admission into the coalition for individuals and organisations.

In Umno, Najib said changes were also made in the form of historic amendments to the party constitu-

tion last year to allow for greater participation of party members at all levels in voting for the party's leadership.

"Of course, it exposes us to greater scrutiny in terms of our work and it certainly puts party leaders, including myself, at substantial political risk but it is our belief that our political support must be and should be conditional on our ability to perform well. By this mechanism, we will be judged by our own party members who can see for themselves whether we have earned our place as their leaders," he said.

Aside from internal adjustments to accommodate the changing times, the most important thing a political party must remember is the constant and continuous engagement with the people. It is this singular element which will be foremost in the minds of the public when they decide whether or not a political party is relevant to them.

"We need to ensure that we deliver, and are seen to deliver what is important to our people," he said.

When he took office as prime minister in April last year, Najib's first order of business was to put in place the People First, Performance Now commitment under the IMalaysia banner.

On the economic front, Najib said the BN government was relentlessly working to transform Malaysia into a high income economy and had introduced a number of initiatives. These included the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), the Economic Transformation Programme and six National Key Results Areas (NKRAs).

He said the important thing to note was that at practically every stage of preparing these economic initiatives which would have an impact on people's lives, the public were engaged in public labs and forums so as to enable the BN government to truly gauge their expectations and deliver on their aspirations.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, left here and arrived at the Subang Royal Malaysian Air Force Base about 3pm yesterday.