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Najib: Unity is about mutual respect, trust

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Razak, expected to be sworn in as the sixth prime minister tomorrow, wants all Malaysians to join him to bring the country to greater heights through mutual respect and trust for each other.

He said he would expound on the "One Malaysia" concept, which entailed mutual trust and respect as the main ingredients, after taking over from Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"These two are important elements for national unity. We must start by having respect for each other and once this has been developed consciously, we will be more open in trusting one another. We must develop this faith and trust.

"Of course, this will not happen overnight but it has to be consciously developed."

Through his website 1malaysia.com, Najib said he posted a question on Feb 27 on "what does unity mean to you?"

"We must have these two elements, not just tolerance which is a minimum prerequisite but with these two, we will be much stronger and can move forward as one Malaysia.

"We will be moving in one kinship and togetherness with the spirit of one Malaysia," he said to loud applause before giving away RM80 million in financial aid under the stimulus package to Tamil primary schools at the Education Ministry.

Present were Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and MIC secretary-general Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam.



"To me, this is a significant change that must be embraced by all Malaysians as we move forward in this millennium. The world has changed and Malaysians must change with the world."

Najib also said he would continue to propagate human capital development as mooted by Abdullah.

"We cannot be narrow-minded in our thinking but we have to look at the bigger picture in order for us to face

challenges."

Asked on claims that Indians in the country were being marginalised, Najib said the government had carried out various programmes for the community.

"It has to be fair and equitable in terms of the programmes. By embarking on this One Malaysia, which is an arching philosophy, we will translate that into specific policies and allocations.

"The additional allocation for Tamil schools that we have given today is indicative of the thrust the government will continue to introduce."

Najib, who is Umno president, was also asked about the timing of the allocation which coincided with the by-elections in Bukit Selambau, Bukit Gantang and Batang Ai.

"Whatever we do, there will always be all sorts of questions. This (event) is as good as any other time."

On reports that several Umno leaders were being investigated for money politics after the Umno general assembly last week, Najib said he could not say anything at the moment.

"I cannot make any conclusion as the matter is being investigated. We must not jump to conclusions based on rumours. It is up to the investigation panel and disciplinary board to decide on the appropriate actions to be taken."

Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas, one of Umno's disciplinary board members, said the probe was carried out by officers of the board's investigation panel.

He had said that there were investigations being carried out on a number of cases, including those contesting top posts.