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Najib carries on his father's dream

• By **Muhd. Iqbal Sulaiman**

"Be like your father. Work hard to bring Malaysia into a new era of prosperity," advises Datuk Idris Shaari Mat Aris to newly-appointed prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"I know this is the humble wish of the family, including Najib's mother, Tun Rahah Noah. We hope Najib will be able to perform his duty to the rakyat, just like his late father," said the former aide-de-camp to Najib's father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the country's second prime minister.

Idris said a prosperous and harmonious society would further uplift the country's sovereignty.

"With the support of the people, plus hard work and continuous efforts to bring about development, the country can only get better."

Idris, who started working for Razak on May 1, 1965, recalled being given the task of taking care of the late prime minister's travel arrangements.

When Razak died in 1976, Idris was appointed as special officer for Rahah, now 76, and her family.

Idris said besides being a full-time housewife, Rahah was also active in the Girl Guides and Pertiwi (Persatuan Wanita Islam).

He said Rahah's love for her husband was total.

"Every Friday morning, Rahah will perform her subuh prayers at Masjid Negara (Razak is buried at Makam Pahlawan, which is located in the mosque compound)



Datuk Seri Najib and Datuk Zakaria Ahmad, private secretary to Tun Razak, in London.

and recite the Yassin for her late husband.

"She has been doing this for the last 25 years, except on days when she is unwell."

Idris said Rahah and her children were a close-knit family.

"Her children admire and respect her. She treats all her

children like friends. Every Wednesday, the family members will have dinner together."

Idris said the Razak family had a strong bond.

"They are always united and will reach a consensus on almost every matter."

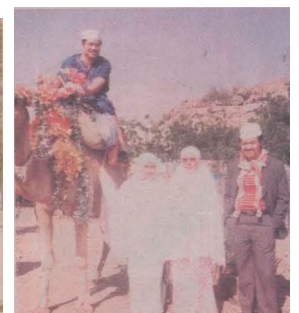
On Najib, Idris said he

remembered him as an obedient child.

Najib is the eldest of five siblings.

Idris said one thing that struck him was that Najib had always been loyal and respectful.

"I also know that he considers unity as vital."



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TO BE SURE, OUR TIES ARE STILL STRONG AND ANCHORED IN OUR LONG HISTORY WITH ALL ITS SHARED TRADITIONS AND VALUES, REPLENISHED BY THE LATTER-DAY INJECTIONS OF HEALTHY TRADE AND PLENTIFUL INVESTMENT.”

— ADDRESSING THE UK BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MARCH 2005.