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New JKKK model next year: Najib

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> 'It will help strengthen grassroots leadership'

ALOR STAR: The government will implement the new model of the Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK) beginning next year to strengthen grassroots leadership, said Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak yesterday.

According to the prime minister, the new model will place the age limit for the JKKK chairman at 65 years which is deemed more reasonable.

"After the age of 70, it may be difficult (for the person) to carry out his work," he said at the breaking of fast with Kedah state JKKK at the Dewan Wawasan Kubang Pasu, Jitra near here.

He said that among other things that will be implemented in the new model is to add knowledge gathering and

effectiveness for JKKK leadership.

"We leave it to Shafie (Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal) to announce the details at the national level," he said.

Najib said the government has also decided to extend the duration of service for all JKKK members which should have ended in June, to the end of the year.

He said the government always appreciated the role played by the JKKK and had raised the allowance of all the JKKK chairmen and secretaries besides the meeting allowance.

The prime minister was satisfied with the achievements of the Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno in wresting Kedah from the Opposition in the last general election.

He noted with delight the number of parliamentary and state seats wrested

by Umno and the BN had risen from four to 10 and 14 to 21 respectively.

He attributed Kedah's achievement in the last general election to the support of the JKKK and it also showed the spirit of cooperation as well as the team spirit and loyalty.

"Without the spirit of loyalty it would not have been possible for us to win the last general election. If the Kedah Umno and BN had not worked as a team, we would not have succeeded."

He hoped there would be a transformation in the immediate future and five years from now to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

"The majority of the Kedah voters previously supported the Opposition but have moved back to BN because of the failure of the Opposition in fulfilling the promises made in the 2008 general election," he said. - Bernama