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Umno thumbs-up for Najib

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> Party leaders support his call for members to reflect on their weaknesses

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's call to party members to reflect on their weaknesses has been well received by the party's top leaders.

Party vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the labelling of Umno as "racist" should be studied as the party, being the backbone of the Barisan Nasional (BN), has to

unite all communities.

"Whatever the allegations hurled at Umno, members should not dwell on the negative but instead work for the well-being of the people.

"Umno members must not be arrogant. What we should do is to shoulder the trust and carry out the pledges (in the manifesto)," he said.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Umno must find the special factor to strengthen the party, apart from keeping its struggles alive, so that it will remain as the people's choice.

"With acknowledgement, we will be able to

find a distinction by which this sacred Malay party will be viewed differently from others, and maintain the people's trust," he said.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno has every reason to celebrate the party's victory as it managed to win 88 parliamentary seats, compared with 79 in the 2008 election.

He agreed with Najib's call for Umno members to reflect on its former strength and why it was no longer drawing the support of certain parties.

"The leader (Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak) has said he will contemplate on this. All of us

should ask and study why there is disunity among the Malays."

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said as Umno members understand Najib's message and move forward, the BN structure should be reviewed to enhance cooperation within BN components parties.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the wing should resolve its weaknesses.

Puteri Umno chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said the party has to go back to basics and work on areas where support was lacking. - Bernama