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# MBs and MCA stand firm behind Najib

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**STRONG SUPPORT:** We will not abandon PM despite attacks, says Perak MB

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**S**UPPORT continued to pour in for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday with political leaders expressing their wish for him to remain at the helm.

In **Ipoh**, the Perak government, under Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, said the state stood firm behind the prime minister and his effort to steer the nation to greater heights.

"As a team, we will support the prime minister through thick and thin. He is the captain of the ship. We will not abandon him just because he is facing attacks now," he said here yesterday.

Zambry said Najib had also addressed issues levelled against him, including those concerning 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"Najib did not shy away. He also took necessary action to address the issues. I don't think these attacks are right. His leadership has also proven wrong whatever ac-



**Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir** says Datuk Seri Najib Razak addressed all issues

cusations against him," he added. Zambry, who is also state Umno liaison committee chairman, said he would present his official stand at the state Umno liaison meeting soon.

The support came in the wake of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticism against Najib's leadership in his blog, including a call for him to step down.

In **Kuala Terengganu**, Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman called for unity among Umno leaders of old and new to strengthen the party.

"I respect Dr Mahathir, who had guided the nation for 22 years as prime minister and Umno president, but Najib has been at the helm for just five years.

"The time gap is wide, so it is



**Datuk Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman** calls for unity among Umno leaders

only fair to give him (Najib) a chance to lead the country."

Razif, who is also state Umno liaison chief, said Dr Mahathir, too, had problems during his leadership and Umno members stood by him for 22 years. Asked if the state Umno would organise a meeting with Dr Mahathir, Razif said he would wait for feedback from all the eight divisions.

MCA yesterday reiterated its support for Najib's leadership and said it would not entertain any criticism against him.

President Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the focus of the party was on working with Umno to develop the country and it would turn a deaf ear to any criticism against the prime minister, including calls for him to resign.

"We give (our) full support to the

prime minister. We are focused on developing the nation together with Umno and BN (Barisan Nasional) and will not allow any attacks or criticisms to disturb our stand to build the country," he said at Parliament.

The Malaysian Associated Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged Dr Mahathir to stop discrediting the prime minister and instead look at the weaknesses of his own administration.

"The economic transformation we achieved during his term in office was due to the mandate given to him to implement all policies without any glitches and scathing remarks from his predecessors.

"Please bear in mind that whatever you say will be deemed as the gospel truth, and whatever negative you say may do more harm than good for the country.

"He should also support Najib, while he undertakes economic reforms, which the current administration feels is best for the people and country," said the organisation in a statement yesterday.

On the status of 1Malaysia Development Berhad, the chamber said everyone should wait for investigations to be completed before jumping to conclusions.

It stated that Najib had already directed a high-powered task force led by the Auditor-General to independently verify the company's accounts and forward the findings to the Public Accounts Committee.

**Additional reporting by Veena Babulal**