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Najib: My obligation to lead the country The Sun

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak had never expected that he would join politics when he was young.

"People say I was groomed for leadership from an early age. But that is not quite true.

"One person went so far as to say that he supported me out of gratitude to my father (second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein)," he said.

Speaking at the 26th Tunku Abdul Rahman Lecture organised by Malaysian Institute of

Management here last night, Najib said he also never dared assume that he would one day have the honour of leading Malaysia.

"As the PM, however, it is my responsibility to make the right decisions for all Malaysians.

"It is my duty and a sacred trust, and no one should attempt to interfere with or hijack that obligation to lead," he said.

Najib thanked the people who gave him the mandate to lead the country, which is the people's to give or take away.

"It does not belong to any individual, nor is the people's trust to be betrayed by those who

engage in conspiracies for their own selfish ends, rather than the good of all Malaysians," he said.

He added that he follows in the footsteps of the first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, and his father Abdul Razak, who were great leaders.

He noted that both of them and other leaders in the past were the reason Malaysia was able to survive challenges and able to prosper in the past, not by mere chance or luck.

"Malaysia pulled through because of its leadership and there were particular leadership traits that one can easily

identify," he said.

He noted that the past leaders had a deep care and concern for the nation, willing to make personal sacrifices, worked for the wellbeing of the nation as well as being bold to take action, even if deemed unpopular.

"Here, wisdom and pragmatism were evident. We had leaders who saw beyond the short term, and created a framework that would build a more equitable and sustainable future, even though they knew it was not one they were likely to live long enough to see themselves," he said.

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