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Najib counts on state for solid support

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KANGAR: Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday expressed confidence that Perlis would continue to remain the coalition's stronghold.

The prime minister said he did not see signs that Perlis would fall to the opposition.

"Under the past leadership, BN has remained strong in Perlis. It is my belief that under the current Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man, Perlis will continue to remain a BN stronghold," he told more than 5,000 people at Dewan 2020 here.

Present were his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Azlan and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department

Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Najib said Perlis would remain BN's stronghold following the show of support for him from the "two tigers" in the northern state — Shahidan and Azlan.

"If the two heads are on the same track, Perlis can be strong. Shahidan has pledged his undivided support to me, and just moments ago, Azlan has openly stated that even if lightning strikes, he will still be solidly behind me.

"We need a strong government. We need a strong party that is well respected. If we are looked down upon and the party is deemed weak, people will lose respect and we may lose

in the next general election."

Najib said as a developing nation, Malaysians could be proud of the country's stability, unity, development and transformation brought about by the BN-led government.

In the next five years, in the final leg of the country's development under the 11th Malaysia Plan, and when the nation reached the finish line, Malaysia would emerge as a developed nation in 2020, Najib said.

"We will face many challenges, in terms of equal, fair and inclusive distribution of the nation's wealth. We can do this if the people give their undivided trust and support to the government and the party."