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'I will continue fighting for nation'

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WARRIOR SPIRIT: Do not underestimate me, Najib tells detractors

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has come out strongly against his detractors, warning them to not underestimate him.

He said he would never bow to pressure and would continue with his responsibility as prime minister to develop and transform the country into a high-income nation.

"Do not underestimate me. The warrior spirit is within me and I will continue to fight. With the blessings and support from you, my spirit will not be broken," he said in his speech at the meet-the-people session at the indoor stadium in Petra Jaya near here yesterday.

More than 12,000 people, including leaders and members from

Sarawak Barisan Nasional component parties, came to express their support for Najib at the event.

Present were leaders and members from political parties deemed friendly to Sarawak BN, such as United People's Party (UPP) and Parti Tenaga Rakyat Sarawak (Teras). UPP and Teras are splinter parties of Sarawak United People's Party and Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party.

Also present were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem and his deputy, Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang,

Najib said he would continue to lead the nation as there were several agendas which have not been met, adding that his predecessors also went through problems when helming the country.

"But that does not affect my loyalty for the past 22 years.

"And if it wasn't for our loyalty, he would not be the prime minister for 22 years (in reference to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad).

"Now, it is my era to be prime minister. Should I step down just because of one person?

"Who chose me? The people, and

not just the Malayan people (Peninsular Malaysia), but also those in Sabah and Sarawak.

"The people of Sarawak chose me as *apai besar* (prime minister). I ask you now, do you want me to stay on as prime minister?" he said, to thunderous cheers of "nak" (yes) from the crowd.

Taking another swipe at Dr Mahathir, he called on the people of Sarawak to reward Adenan with a stronger mandate for another five years in the next state polls.

"He (Adenan) is only asking for another five years, and not 22 years."

Najib also expressed gratitude for the support of Adenan and other BN leaders in Sarawak.

"Just now, the Sarawak chief minister (Tan Sri Adenan Satem) said to me, 'you are not alone,' and I responded with, I'm glad that I'm not alone.

"I can read everyone's facial expression and I can feel them when I hold their hands. Every time I come to the state, I can see the sincerity in the people here."

Najib pledged that he would work harder and redouble his efforts in steering the nation to greater heights.