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Najib: Dad a man of principle

Tun Razak was a moderate leader with high integrity, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein was a moderate and principled leader of high integrity, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Joining his four younger brothers in defending their father's legacy, Najib pointed out that throughout his father's career, he had never been linked to abuse of power or corrupt practice.

In a statement, the current Prime Minister said his father was steadfast in putting the interests of the country as his utmost priority.

"People still remember his contributions to the country," Najib said.

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- DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

"Since he first took part in the political struggle ... Tun Razak was known to have practised a moderate and frugal lifestyle," Najib said in the statement issued on Sunday, and which was reported in *Utusan Malaysia* and *Berita Harian*.

Najib's brothers - Datuk Johari,

Datuk Nizam, Datuk Nazim and Datuk Seri Nazir - in a three-paragraph statement on Feb 24 had expressed their concern over news articles that speculated on the nature and extent of their late father's inheritance.

They said that the whole family was united on the issue.

The statement by the four brothers was reportedly in response to a *New York Times* report quoting a statement from the Prime Minister's office that Najib's wealth came from family inheritance.

Utusan yesterday reported that

the *New York Times* article was misleading and that it had been made to understand that Tun Razak did not even use government funds to pay for the cost of his children's overseas university education.

"Instead, the education costs for all of the second Prime Minister's children were fully paid for by his father-in-law Tan Sri Mohamed Noah Omar, in another example of Tun Razak's moderate outlook," the *Utusan* report said.

The newspaper said Mohamed Noah was a leading Malay tycoon and corporate figure of his time.