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*Najib a true leader  
who dares to make  
unpopular decisions*  
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**W**ITH the tabling of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), the people look forward to its implementation. To achieve that, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should be allowed to do his job without interference.

He has said that he was not perfect. And he was willing to listen to rectify whatever weaknesses that existed.

Criticism must be fair and not based on hidden and personal agendas.

Everyone knows that Najib is a good man, coming from an aristocratic family.

He was brought up steeped in noble values and respect for people. Above all, he was taught the meaning of "*amanah*" (trust/trustworthiness), which a leader has to hold dearly.

Has Najib changed since becoming prime minister? Many doubt this.

Many still believe that Najib should not be blamed for ventures such as Malaysia Development Bhd, as he trusted others to give him advice.

As prime minister and finance minister, he cannot be expected to go into every detail of project proposals.

Perhaps on 1MDB, he should review the position of key members and put the right people to do the job.

Putting the right people to do the job seems to be the problem in this country.

I once had tea with an Indian taxi driver in Brickfields and I asked him in Malay, "*Apa pendapat you mengenai kerajaan ini?*" (What is your opinion of this government?).

He answered, "*Abang, ini negeri banyak kaya, tapi salahtadbir urus!*" (Brother, this is a wealthy country, but it is mis-managed.)

Two months ago, I went for a swim at the Chamang Waterfall in Pahang with my family, and got to know a middle-aged Chinese man who owns a sundry shop.

I asked him about his business and the economy. He said: "*Ini negeri banyak kaya, tapi itu orang politik hari-hari gaduh. Itu Mahathir dia diam-diam la, jangan kacau itu Najib!*" (This is a rich country, but every day the politicians quarrel. Mahathir should be quiet, don't disturb Najib).

Recently, I had chapati in a stall behind Tawakal Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

I spoke with the owner and asked him about the Goods and Services Tax.

He was not happy with the GST and took pity on the poor and homeless, who were not spared from it.

He did not blame Najib, but said his advisers did not give the right advice and the implementation was done without proper study.

When asked what would be his advice to Najib if he had the opportunity, he said would use the old system of taxing the rich.

By now, the people are getting used to GST. They have to make adjustments and cut out items that are not needed.

In a way, the GST has taught people to be more prudent with their spending.

At the same time, the net has been cast wider, with even illegal immigrants having to pay for GST whenever they shop.

The fact that Najib made the decision to go ahead with GST despite its unpopularity shows that he has leadership qualities.

A true leader dares to make an unpopular decision as he believes that decision is for the good of the people and nation.

Najib has said that he needed time to see his ideas come to fruition.

Some are in place and the people have benefited from the various transformation programmes.

The launching of 11MP will decide Najib's place in history. For that, his detractors should give him space and support it for the good of the nation.

There is goodness in Najib. Behind him is his mother, Tun Rahah Mohammad Noah, who will always remind him to practice good governance like his late father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

And Najib is mindful that he has to shoulder the responsibility of carrying the good name of his late father, who is known as "*Bapa Pembangunan*" (Father of Development).

For that, Najib has said he would not shed his responsibility and would do his best for the people and nation.

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