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# 'Dr M's exit will not affect Umno'

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**'LESS IMPACT':** Former PM's remarks won't distract govt, says Najib



**JEDDAH**

**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's act of leaving Umno will not have any impact on the party, said party president Datuk

Seri Najib Razak.

Najib, who is also the prime minister, said the effects of Dr Mahathir's action had been somewhat diluted.

"Usually, when we leave a party, the impact is most felt the first time

around. This is his (Dr Mahathir's) second time.

"Some say that it does not really register an impact which can affect Umno," he said, adding that the former prime minister's decision was not "unexpected".

He dismissed claims by Dr Mahathir that he (Najib) was a person who was too focused on status.

"What I have now is based on the mandate from party members, who

chose it via the most open process in Umno's history based on the principles of democracy.

"I pledge to continue the mandate received from Umno members," he told Malaysian reporters here after attending the Jeddah Economic Forum.

Najib said Dr Mahathir's remarks would not distract the government from focusing on its work to continue developing the country.