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PRIME NEWS

Najib: We are politically stable

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INTERVIEW:

Dr Mahathir the one making noise, PM tells Indonesia

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak refuted rumours that Malaysia is facing political instability.

Najib, in an interview with Indonesian media, said the situation in Malaysia was stable, blaming the "political noise" in the country on former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It was Dr Mahathir who was mak-

ing the noise. Maybe he has his own agenda, and maybe he wants his son to be in the country's leadership.

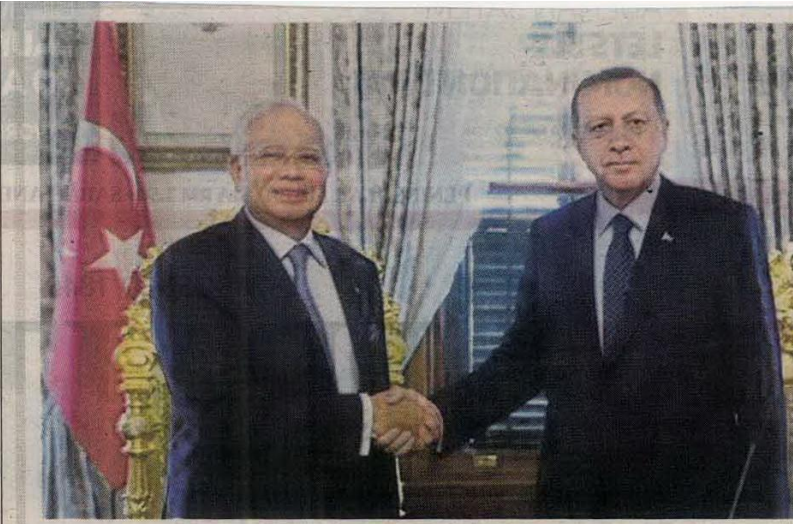
"Maybe he also wants to control government policy, or (because) his favourite project was not being implemented," he said, without specifying what the project was.

Najib said for Barisan Nasional (BN) to continue governing, it needed to reach out to the people to gain their support.

"God willing, the government today will remain until the next general election," he said, adding that time would tell whether he would continue to be prime minister.

"To have change in Malaysia, it must be done through the Constitution; the rule of law.

"We cannot change the government through street demonstrations, as we stand by our democratic practices where we give the people the right to choose (their leaders)



BOOSTING TIES

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a picture posted on his Facebook page last night. Najib, who is attending the 13th Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, is scheduled to deliver a speech at the summit today. Pic courtesy of Office of President of Turkey

every five years."

He said street demonstrations would lead only to "democracy".

Najib said the opposition coalition had split since the last general election, with Pas having to leave the alliance.

"They (the opposition parties) failed to agree on who should lead their coalition, which shows that they are not a viable alternative to BN."

Najib expressed his disappointment with Dr Mahathir, who had become one of his biggest critics.

"I had supported Mahathir for 22 years. Now, we see what has happened. He does not remember my deeds and contributions all those years.

"I remember his personality, he wanted to control me. But as prime minister, I am given the mandate by the people and the party to lead the country."

Najib recalled how Dr Mahathir had refused to accept the views of others when he was prime minister.

"I accept advice, but I defend my principles and lead the country, according to my judgment, for the nation and the people," he said, adding that his predecessor, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, accepted how he governed.

Commenting on Malaysia's participation in the Asean Economic Community, Najib said more Indonesian companies should be encouraged to invest in Malaysia.

"We have always encouraged our entrepreneurs to have a regional mindset.

"If we look at the figures, the amount of Malaysian investment in Indonesia is more than US\$15 billion (RM58.2 billion). However, the investment by Indonesian firms in Malaysia is only at US\$1.68 billion. So, the gap is still obvious."

He said the government was considering ways to simplify the means to hire foreign workers.

"Our industry players have been pushing for an easier process to hire foreign workers. This is under consideration by the government."

Najib said the government had yet to identify the actual number of illegal foreign workers in Malaysia.