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# 'I expected Dr M to backstab BN'

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## INCONSIDERATE:

I think the people now know the man better, Najib says of Dr M's antics



LONDON

**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak has questioned whether it was proper for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to backstab a party which had done so much for him, his family and the country.

Responding to Dr Mahathir's statement asking voters to reject Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno in the upcoming Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections, the prime minister reminded Dr Mahathir that he held power for 22 years because of Umno.

"BN is a party that has served the people well and Dr Mahathir became prime minister because of BN and Umno," Najib told a news conference on Tuesday (Wednesday Malaysian time).

"He and his family received a lot of benefits when he was PM. And this is because of Umno and BN's strength," he said.

"And when he asked the people to reject the party that has served (him) well, there was backlash, as he could not have become prime minister without Umno and BN," he said.

"Many had said that it was not

fair, for sure, as a considerate person would not have rejected a party that had helped that person as an individual and the country in general," he said.

"Changes to our country, its development, political stability and successes were all due to BN, and Umno is the pillar of BN. So, is it fair for us to stab the party in the back?" he asked.

Asked whether he was disappointed with Dr Mahathir's statement, Najib said: "I had expected it. I think the people now know the man better."

Sounding like an opposition leader, Dr Mahathir had, that weekend, called for the opposition to join forces to defeat BN in the two by-elections on June 18.

"The prime objective is to defeat BN to show Najib that the rakyat no longer supports him," Dr Mahathir told a "Save Malaysia movement" gathering.

Only a handful 300 people at-

tended the event.

Najib told reporters that BN was scouring for the most suitable candidates for the two upcoming by-elections.

"We are in the process of identifying the most suitable candidates. We have to look at it from every aspect, so that the chosen candidates would be accepted by voters," he said.

Najib, who is BN chairman and Umno president, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was making preparations to face the by-elections.

On a separate matter, Najib said it was too early to think about restructuring the cabinet.

"I have not thought about it," he said when asked by reporters here whether there would be a major reshuffle.

"But certainly, the Plantation, Industries and Commodities Ministry will see changes," he said.

## PM lauds Sadiq Khan

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday extended his congratulations to Sadiq Khan for being elected as the new Mayor of London.

He also thanked Sadiq for visiting the Khazanah Europe Investment Limited office at The Shard in London.

"Congratulations also for being elected as the new Mayor of London, the first Muslim mayor in this city.

"I believe this is a clear message of not just acceptance of Muslims in all societies but also that civil society embraces merit and tolerance," he wrote on Facebook.