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PM: Emulate Abdul Ghafar

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Cherish past leader's loyalty and devotion, Najib tells Umno members

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MALACCA: Loyalty and devotion as shown by former deputy prime minister Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba should be cherished and emulated by Umno members, said party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said Abdul Ghafar showed allegiance to the leader, undivided loyalty to the party and upheld the principles of Umno's struggles.

"I asked myself the significance when we hold a function such as this one.

"It is noteworthy for two reasons, namely, we remember a statesman, politician and a leader who is highly regarded, and the second which is most meaningful, we try to honour his leadership qualities," he said in his speech at a *tahlil* session and prayers to mark the 10th year of Abdul Ghafar's passing.

Najib said Abdul Ghafar's devotion, loyalty and honesty should be followed by the younger generation.

Among those who were present yesterday included Malacca Governor Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam, Senate president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron, Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah



Remembering a leader: Najib, accompanied by (from left) Tamrin Tun Ghafar, Mohd Khalil and Idris, visiting Abdul Ghafar's memorial after the prayer session in Malacca. — Bernama

Md Hanipah and Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Najib called on Umno members to remember the messages of past leaders who wanted the present generation to uphold the responsibility of defending the sacred party of the Malays.

"I recall Tun Abdul Ghafar once said that without Umno there is no

wall of defence and everything will perish.

"Hence, if there are differences among party members, a consensus must be reached so that Umno will still stand united," he said.

Najib said Abdul Ghafar was a symbol of Umno's struggles up to this day and that he did not look at position as being important.

"For the record, Tun Abdul Ghafar had never lost his temper for not being appointed as deputy prime minister at one stage of his political career.

"For him, the party was not a platform for jostling for position but felt Umno was a party that should be protected for the future generations," he said.