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Zahid: PM inherited down-to-earth character from dad

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak always finds a way to forgive others and never takes to heart the negativity thrown at him throughout his 40-year political career.

His deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, said having known Najib for over 30 years, the latter always tried his best not to offend others, including his political enemies.

"Many do not know that Najib has something that many of us don't.

"He never takes to heart the bad disposition of others, notably that of his political foes.

"He has never arranged for payback against them, and in fact he is a very forgiving person.

"As a friend and someone who knows him well, I understand his sentiments and feelings," he told the *New Sunday Times* ahead of the 40th anniversary of Najib's entry into politics.

Zahid, who previously served Najib as his political secretary, said as a human being, the prime minister

was a soft-hearted person who was easily overcome with emotion, especially when it came to dealing with poverty.

He described Najib as having a down-to-earth character, which he inherited from his late father, second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

"He shows concern for the people, especially those in rural areas, and is not a stuck-up leader. He is very approachable," said Zahid.

Najib's political career began after the sudden death of his father on Jan 14, 1976.

He won the by-election for the Pekan parliamentary seat, vacated upon the death of his father, when he was 22.

The eldest son of the second prime minister now continues his father's legacy in serving the nation and people.

Zahid said Najib, as the sixth prime minister, had gone through the thick and thin of politics before reaching the pinnacle.

He never takes to heart the bad disposition of others, notably that of his political foes. He has never arranged for payback against them, and in fact, he is a very forgiving person.

Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
Deputy prime minister