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Joy of helping the needy

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'A TONIC': Najib says he draws great satisfaction from being able to serve the people

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said his fulfilment came from helping the needy during his decades in politics and government service.

He said, among others, he drew great satisfaction when he helped the poor to perform the haj pil-

grimage and secure scholarships for needy students.

"These have given me the tonic to serve the people.

"There is less satisfaction when giving out contracts," he said at Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Mosque here last night.

He was addressing the mosque congregation after a special prayer and *tahlil* as a thanksgiving to mark his 40th anniversary in politics and government yesterday.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, said he was thankful to Allah for surviving the trials and tribulations in his career and personal life.

"If Allah had not protected me, I would not have lived to this day," he said.

He cited several near-misses

such as when the helicopter he was on crash-landed in 1987 and when a car he was in with his wife overturned.

"The incidents were life threatening but I survived."

Najib said as a human being, there was a need to express thankfulness to Allah for His protection for the past 40 years.

"Politically, I sometimes feel I have no bulletproof vest to shield me from attacks."