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Online mag says Najib has proven doomsayers wrong

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PUTRAJAYA: A reputed international foreign affairs publication has predicted that Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will continue to lead Malaysia despite attempts to unseat him.

This was among eight predictions made by The Diplomat for South-East Asia in 2016.

“Expect Najib to still be in control in Malaysia as this year ends as well,” it said in article written by Joshua Kurlantzick.

In its article “Eight Predictions for Southeast

Asia for 2016: Part 1” uploaded online on Jan 9, the magazine stated that the Prime Minister had so far proved wrong all those who thought he would not last due to a politically challenging 2015.

“For most of 2015, many Malaysian politicians, observers and activists wrote Najib off, sure that the in-fighting within the governing coalition, the scandals around the 1MDB state fund and the torrent criticism by (Tun Dr

Mahathir (Mohamad) would ultimately force him out of office. They were wrong,” the article stated.

Last year, Najib came under heavy fire from former prime minister Dr Mahathir over several issues, namely those involving 1MDB, and also had to face critics over the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.

This led him to remove his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Umno vice-president

Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal from the Cabinet.

The article also said Najib had survived the Umno general assembly in December unscathed.

It also claimed that the new National Security Council Act would potentially give the government “unprecedented powers”.

The Diplomat is a Tokyo-based online international magazine covering politics, society and culture in the Asia Pacific.