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Najib pays homage to father with poetry

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak turned poetic at an event to launch a book about his long political career by affirming his loyalty to past leaders and his party and paying homage to his father, Malaysia's second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

Instead of the usual speech, the Prime Minister recited a *sajak* (poem) about his principles and the challenges he had faced in his 40 years in public service.

The book, *Najib Razak Berjiwa Besar – Empat Dekad Menongkah Arus Kepimpinan dan Politik* (Najib Razak – Four Decades in Leadership and Politics), was launched by former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

After Abdullah spoke and launched the book, Najib delivered his poem *Coretan Empat Dekad* (Jottings on Four Decades), which, among others, contained the



Proud moment: (From left) Dr Khairil Anas, Abdullah, Najib and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor posing for photographs during the launching ceremony.

following lines:

*Dalam bersiyasah / In politics
Tidak pernah ku jatuhkan sesiapa
/ Never have I caused the downfall
of anyone*

*Tidak pula aku alpa akan taat
setia pada pemimpin yang terdahulu*

*/ And never have I neglected loyalty
to previous leaders*

*Justeru jua tidak pernah ku tinggalkan
parti keramat Umno / As such never have I left Umno*

*Ayahanda berpesan agar jagalah
parti, dan padaku pula tiada yang*

lebih besar maknanya dari berkhidmat pada rakyat. / My father told me to take care of the party, and to me nothing has greater meaning than serving the rakyat.

The book, published by the Foundation of Research on Transformation, was written by Prof Datuk Seri Dr Khairil Annas Jusoh and Dr Sabri Mohamad Sharif.

Abdullah, in his opening speech, gave his endorsement of Najib's performance as Prime Minister.

"If Tun Razak was still with us today, he would be very proud of what has been achieved by his oldest son (Najib)," said Abdullah, to applause from the audience.

"Political stability and economic success are important but remember integrity, honesty and empathy.

"That is how I remember your father and how I want you to also be remembered," Abdullah said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

