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PM unperturbed by hate campaign

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> Najib says government steadfast in facing criticisms and attacks from opposition

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak says he remains unperturbed by the act of certain parties who have initiated a hate campaign against his leadership.

Speaking at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Najib said former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad faced worse criticism during his tenure.

"I am not surprised with what is happening as during the premiership of Tun Mahathir, there were many labels thrown at him such as 'mahazalim' and 'mahafiraun'.

"But now, it seems that he is sitting together (with the Opposition)," Najib said in response to a supplementary question from Tan Sri Annuar

Musa at the Dewan Rakyat, who had asked him to state his stand on the matter.

His comments came in response to the recently signed Citizens' Declaration led by Mahathir, which calls for the removal of Najib.

He said, as prime minister, the government would continue to remain "istiqamah" (steadfast) and focused in facing criticisms and attacks from the Opposition.

"If we remain 'istiqamah', consistent, sooner or later the rakyat will appreciate the efforts done by the government," he added.

Taking advantage of Najib's appearance in Parliament, Tony Pua (DAP-Petaling Jaya Utara) also attempted to ask him questions pertaining to iMalaysia Development Berhad (iMDB) and the RM2.6 billion donation.

The opposition MP was, however, interjected by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, who said Najib could choose not to answer such questions as they were unrelated to the topic being discussed.

Najib said Pua intended to take advantage of his presence, and replied that what matters was the government's achievements in developing the nation.

He added that the issues revolving around him were being played up by both the local and international media.

"We will provide the answers as I am responsible to the rakyat. However, I will leave it to the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) to decide on iMDB and the responsible parties with regard to the RM2.6 billion," he said.

"There is nothing to be worried about as the accountability process will continue to go on in our country," he added.



IMPRESSIVE ... Najib officiating at the Warisan Merdeka project in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The RM5 billion project comprises an 118-storey tower and a seven-level shopping mall and will be completed in 2020. Looking on is Permodalan Nasional Bhd chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid (left) and PNB president and group CEO Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman (centre).