

Newspaper	THE SUN
Date	19 MAY 2016

# Najib: Dr M and family gained from Umno, BN

*The Sun - 19/5/2016*

> 'His call to the Opposition to be united against party akin to stabbing it'

LONDON: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said Umno and BN had afforded Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad enormous benefits and enabled him to be prime minister for 22 years.

However, his action of opposing Umno now caused many to think he was stabbing the party which also gave enormous benefits to his family members, he said.

"He and his family had derived a lot of benefits from his position as PM which was due to the strength of Umno and BN.

"So, when he told the people to reject the party which has done a lot, there were negative reactions against his stand because without BN and Umno, he would not have become prime minister or even a minister."

Najib was asked to comment on Mahathir's statement which called on opposition parties to be united against BN in the Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar by-elections on June 18.

Najib was speaking at a press conference on Tuesday night, at the end of his working visit to the United Kingdom.

The prime minister left for Sochi, Russia, yesterday to attend the two-day Russia-Asean Summit.

He said many were of the view that Mahathir should not reject and stab the party that had contributed so much to the development of the nation.

Asked on whether he was disappointed with the matter, Najib said he had expected it (Mahathir's action).

Attempts to get responses from Mahathir or his blog proved futile.

When asked on the upcoming Cabinet

reshuffle, Najib said he was still thinking about it and he touched on the need to fill the posts in the Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry, including the post of secretary-general.

This follows the resignation of Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas as plantation industries and commodities minister and the death of his deputy, Noriah, and the secretary-general Datuk Dr Sundaran Annamalai.

Najib said BN was in the process of selecting the most suitable candidates for the Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections.

He added the candidates to be fielded should be well accepted not only by the party, but also voters.

"We need to look into all aspects to ensure we have the right candidates who will be well received by both the party and voters."

Najib, who is also Umno president, said he had also given his recommendations to the party on the preparations to be made for the two by-elections.

"I have advised the party through the acting deputy president Zahid... they are actively preparing courses and other activities.

The Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar parliamentary seats fell vacant following the incumbents' deaths in an accident.