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# Najib Gains Respite After State Victory

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By YANTOULTRA NGUI

KUCHING, Malaysia—The strong victory secured by Malaysia’s ruling coalition in a key state election gave a much-needed boost to Prime Minister Najib Razak, who has been buffeted by a scandal at a government-backed investment fund.

Mr. Najib’s ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, or National Front, spent heavily on charity projects and infrastructure ahead of the Sarawak election Saturday and

captured 72 of the 82 assembly seats, according to Malaysia’s election commission. The result in the eastern state stopped an electoral challenge from opponents demanding Mr. Najib’s resignation over the scandal at state investment fund Malaysia Development Bhd., known as 1MDB.

“This victory...showed that the basic strength of the  
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