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LEADERSHIP CYCLE

NAJIB: LET CURRENT LEADERS BE IN CHARGE

Former leaders should learn to let go, says PM

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PAST leaders should let the current leadership continue to develop the nation and not give in to anger and frustration that could destroy the legacy they have built.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it was vital for every leader to understand the con-

cept of leadership cycle, where past leaders willingly stepped aside to allow subsequent leaders to develop the country.

He said it was unbecoming for a former leader to destroy whatever he had built out of spite, to a point where the person failed to remember Umno's fundamental struggles and values.

In a veiled reference to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Najib said he remembered how the former premier had once remarked that when a leader no longer held a position, full support should be given to the next leader.

"Did he forget it? I will never forget it.

"If someone dislikes any leader, it is unbecoming to attack the party to the extent of ruining

it," Najib said at the opening of the Langkawi Umno division delegates' meeting here yesterday.

Present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, Langkawi Umno division chief Datuk Nawawi Ahmad, his deputy Datuk Mohd Rawi Abdul Hamid and division's wings leaders.

Najib stressed that struggles based on idealism could not be done in one or two days as it would take a few generations to be done.

"Our duty is to carry the torch of our forefathers. When Tun Abdul Razak took over from Tunku Abdul Rahman, he continued with the foundation laid by the first prime minister.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launching the Langkawi Umno division delegates' meeting yesterday. PIC BY AMRAN HAMID

"This was followed by Tun Hussein Onn and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. When I took over from Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, I continued with the duty to uphold the struggles and add value to what had been built by the forefathers."

He said in six decades, Malaysia had achieved huge successes that it became a model nation to other countries.

He pointed out that this was affirmed by Saudi Arabia's King Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud during a visit to the country, apart from

Malaysia's ability to attract RM164 billion in investments from China following his (Najib's) visit there.

Najib paid tribute to Langkawi Umno members and the party's three million members nationwide for their support against attacks from the outside, including from former party leaders.

"If I were to be compared to a tree or a big ship, I am not that strong on my own.. But I am still strong because of the three million Umno members who are standing firm behind me."

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