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Najib: Perception can be a **weapon** against us

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> Social media can make truths 'untrue' and vice-versa, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Political grassroots leaders must be mindful of public perception when they deal with the community, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said the political fight today is all about perception and the Opposition is using this as a weapon to win the people's support.

He said what is real can become fake and vice-versa, and thus village heads, village development and security committees (JKKK) and the federal village development and security committee

(JKKKP), must be attentive to this.

"An opposition MP had gone to Sarawak and taken a picture of a logging road and claimed it to be a rural road on social media," Najib said.

He added that these are the type of issues on social media that grassroots leaders need to learn to deal with.

He said the fact that the government has been able to start building the Pan Borneo Highway, which will be toll-free, will be ignored but grassroots leaders must promote this.

"I have also been a victim of this war of perception when I was in Beijing with federal ministers and my wife. A picture was taken in a hotel room and it spread on social media that my wife was attending a Cabinet meeting.

"We were actually making plans to return to Kuala Lumpur as the (then) Sultan of Perak had passed away," the

prime minister said after launching the JKKK, JKKKP and JKKKP Orang Asli Convention yesterday.

Najib urged all those present to always check the facts of a story and not to simply believe it.

He said the role of the JKKK is no longer just to ask for village projects because in this changing world, grassroots leaders must know the pulse of the people and their needs so that the government can help.

He said they are the eyes and ears of the government and they must be aware of what the people want.

Najib said the Barisan Nasional government has brought development to rural areas and if the people put their trust in the Opposition, this will not happen.

He said DAP, which is the most powerful party in the Opposition, will not prioritise rural communities.