

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	30/07/2017

PM: UMNO GIVES PEOPLE HOPE

NST- 30/7/2017 pg. 2

Unlike DAP-led pact, it secures rakyat's future by practising 'politics of hope'

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UMNO-LED Barisan Nasional practises the "politics of hope" to safeguard the people's future, said Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak here yesterday.

This was different than the DAP-led opposition, which engaged in "politics of fear" merely to gain power, said Najib, who is also prime minister and BN chairman.

In officiating the Parit Umno division delegates' meeting here, the first for Najib this year, he explained that those in power engaged in two dimensions of politics — the politics of hope and the politics of fear.

"When we practise the politics of fear, we are ruining the hopes that the people have for the country. This will result in a loss to the people, who will be without a future. We will be in disarray, disorganised, uncertain and aimless (if resorting to politics of fear).

"Umno will continue to give hope to the people because it has been proven that in its 60 years in power, we are the party that has performed many deeds and



Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak waving to delegates upon arrival at the Parit Umno division delegates' meeting yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

brought changes to Malaysia."

The Umno-led BN government had contributed much to the country's development and changes, including mega infrastructure projects like the recently opened 51km MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) that could spur the rural economy, he said.

"There are questions as to why I approved allocations for the Klang Valley. When we carry out projects in Kuala Lumpur, they boost our economy. When the economy grows, the country's revenue will increase.

"When there is more revenue, we will channel it to rural areas."

Najib said Umno and BN were the best choice for Malays and others, and that leaders must get close to voters by always going to the ground, not just when campaigning.

"The people can see that Umno and BN can solve problems, give new hope and safeguard our future.

"Who says Malaysia has failed under Umno? We are not a failed state. During the World Economic Forum, we were announced as among the top 25 competitive countries in the world, while *Forbes* magazine cited Malaysia as the best destination for investment in Asia.

"I have met people from the rating agency, Fitch, which informed me that Malaysia's economy is doing well."

In his speech, Najib announced that about 3,160ha of padi fields in the constituency here would be listed as part of Seberang Perak's Integrated Agricultural Development Area (IADA), which is one of the main

rice producers in the country.

"The Federal Government, in principle, has agreed to the request of the people here, but it will depend on the state government's approval.

"We will allocate a certain amount for the 9km Parit-Siputeh road upgrade work to be carried out in stages," said Najib, who announced a RM3 million additional allocation for the parliamentary constituency here, including for house repairs, for those in need.

Present were Menteri Besar and Pangkor assemblyman Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Parit member of parliament Datuk Mohd Zaim Abu Hasan, Bota assemblyman Datuk Mohd Nasharuddin Hashim and Belanja assemblyman Datuk Mohd Nizar Zakaria.