

'Umno, BN bring change'
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We are able to lead the nation for the long term, says Najib

UMNO must be seen and accepted as a party which is not only capable of meeting its promises but also one that fights for the rakyat and helps them in any way possible.

Its president, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, said yesterday Umno members must step up their service to the rakyat.

Speaking at the opening of Langkawi Umno headquarters, built at a cost of RM1.65 million, the prime minister said this was especially so for its members in the resort island, as the party and Barisan Nasional continued to receive huge support from the people here.

"Umno and BN have done much for the country. We have been able to adapt and remain relevant, dynamic and able to lead the nation for the long term."

Taking Langkawi as an example of how Umno and BN had prospered the country, Najib said the island was one of the premier island destinations in the world.

"If we look back, in the 1960s we can remember how backward Langkawi was, how lacking (in everything). I was told there was only one bus, which spent more time breaking down than moving about. There were more bicycles than cars.

"To come here, you had to take a fishing boat from Kuala Kedah and the ride would take 4 hours. Now, the ferries take only 45 minutes."

Najib said the beachfront land was only worth RM300 at the time, but now anyone owning the property would become instant millionaires should they sell them.

He said he knew of a security guard who had a small piece of land by a beach near Padang Matsirat and sold it for RM2 million when Langkawi began to develop.

"Who was responsible for all this? It was Umno and BN. No one else can claim this. Only we can.

"It is our responsibility as leaders to bring Langkawi to greater heights," Najib said, and urged the people to remember that Umno and BN had brought changes to the country.

Najib added that BN would continue to bring about changes in an era which was filled with battles of the mindset in which the party was still winning because of its outstanding ideas.

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