

Reforms possible only if Umno wins GE, says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 — The government's political and economic reform plans can only take place if Umno delivers a solid win in the upcoming national polls, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

Calling it a small challenge for Barisan Nasional's (BN) biggest component party, the prime minister said Umno needed to work together with its partners to deliver results in order to be re-elected in the general election.

"We have to cross the bridge of the general election, it is very important to be re-elected for us to deliver real transformation, we need to get support from the people," he said in his speech at an international forum organised by Umno here.

Najib's moves towards liberalising the economy has been met with resistance from within Umno as well as Malay rights group Perkasa.

Najib (picture) said Umno as well as BN was the best choice for the country's future, saying that his party was constantly reinventing itself to remain relevant to today's generation of voters.

"The devil is in the details, but I just want to give you a glimpse... third quarter we achieved 5.8 per cent growth, and 3.2 per cent inflation, this is not bad, our macro figures are good," the Umno president said.

He said his administration had successfully reduced crime as well as amended provisions in the Universities and University Colleges Act to allow students above 21 to be members of a political party.

The success of BN, according the Najib, was due to the coalition's "power-sharing" module which avoided inter-ethnic strife and ensured long-term stability.

"Umno is arguably the most successful political party in a modern democracy," said Najib.

The Umno president said however that his party's biggest challenge was complacency.

"Umno has to continue to reform, to reinvent itself so that it is seen as a dynamic party.

"The biggest challenge of being in power for so long is that you have a sense that you have this political power, almost invincibility... this is the danger we face," added Najib.

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