

Najib Stresses Divisional Unity To Win Polls
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak told Umno members to strengthen unity at the divisional level to win the 13th general election.

The Prime Minister and Umno president said the divisions were the pillars of the party and the "parental household" of the organisation.

"I hope we all know how to take care of our household because if we are truly united we will face the polls with increased strength," he said at the breaking of the fast with about 1,200 people at Seri Perdana Tuesday.

Also present was his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

He said that party unity was among three factors that should guide Umno members in preparing for the general election. "Therefore, promote unity and try to set right anything that is not proper. Do not practise factionalism. To do so is to court disaster," Najib said.

The Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman said the second factor was closeness to the people, and the third was giving priority to party interests in the political renewal now being carried out.

Najib said that Umno and the BN must be seen and accepted as the party fighting for the interests and wellbeing of the people.

In line with the political transformation, winnable candidates must be fielded, he said.

"I hope this concept can be accepted. The criteria (to decide who can win) we will think about and outline together.

"However, it should be left to the top leadership to make the (final) decision on who the winnable candidates are," Najib said.

If the concept was accepted and practised, no seat would be lost for want of a better candidate, Najib said.

Najib said the nation saw recently a lot of play-acting and manufactured drama by the opposition, among whom people could choose the best actor.

As for the welfare state that PAS now says it is aiming for, Najib said that Umno and the BN had long practised the concept.

"We do not need to say welfare state because we have always been the champion of the welfare of the people," Najib said.

This year alone, he said, the government set aside RM20 billion as subsidies for the people, and this must be made known.

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