

Najib given an A+ for performance since last polls

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has performed well since the last general election, said Umno veteran Tun Daim Zainuddin.

However, he cautioned that the Barisan Nasional could not solely depend on the Prime Minister to win the next general election.

"This is not a presidential election. In the parliamentary system, he needs support in order to continue (to rule) in Putrajaya.

"He needs a team with him," Daim said in an interview with a Chinese daily, adding that Najib had tried his best.

He said Najib had to show that he was close to the people, including to report to them on the progress and achievements of projects planned.

"Only then will the people have confidence in the Government," he said.

Daim said Barisan component parties were very disciplined and people were willing to believe the Prime Minister could execute the plans.

"But the Prime Minister must get the support.

"The Cabinet ministers, MPs and elected representatives must also explain the plans to the people.

"Elected representatives must always stay connected to the people, and not only show up when the election is near," he said.

On Barisan's chances of recapturing Selangor, Daim said he believed it was a do-able feat, provided the ruling party fielded the right candidates and some new faces.

In another interview with a Malay daily, Daim suggested Barisan field capable candidates in Selangor who would be acceptable to the growing middle class in the state.

He added that Barisan must also take into consideration the voters in districts with institutions of higher learning, such as Shah Alam, Bangi, Serdang, Sunway and Damansara.

He termed these as new voting areas.

As for what voters in Selangor and Klang Valley wanted, Daim said they yearned for access to good education for their children; a safe living environment and the ability to buy affordable properties.

Daim added that he was confident of Barisan's chances of victory in Selangor.

"The political infrastructure is in place and if Barisan is united and committed to winning back Selangor, what is needed is to field new leaders acceptable to the voters," he said.

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