

PM: Contracts to bumis must be awarded on merit
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SHAH ALAM: Contracts awarded to bumiputras must be based on individual's expertise and not anything else, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The Prime Minister said awarding contracts to people who lacked knowledge and experience in a certain field would not do the nation any good.

"There have been weakness in the bumiputra community in the past. It was not the people's fault but the corporate figure who lacked knowledge in running an organisation.

"The Government had to pump in huge amount of money to bail out these companies. So, to avoid this, contracts should be awarded to bumiputras based on merit and expertise," he said during a dialogue session with some 800 retired senior civil servants here yesterday.

He said the tender and evaluation process should also be fair.

"We should also do away with the support letter culture," Najib said when commenting on the economic challenges he faced as Prime Minister.

On another matter, he said implementing the Government's transformation plans would be easier if all states were administered by Barisan Nasional.

"When I became Prime Minister, I faced two main challenges — one on economic and the other politics.

"The Government has outlined many plans and they can be achieved by 2020 but it would be easier if all states, especially Selangor, were under Barisan," he said.

He noted that currently, the Opposition was not co-operating with the Government, making it difficult to implement policies.

The Prime Minister urged the people to pledge their support to Barisan's winnable candidates in the coming elections.

He asked the *rakyat* to not only pledge their support but work with them and bring the nation to greater heights.

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