

**Wings' Polls Show Umno Transformation On Track - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Umno's intention to transform the party to one that truly upheld democracy was clearly evident at its wings' polls Saturday.

Najib who is also Umno president, said the successful and smooth election process which was carried out more openly and involved almost a quarter million delegates and 33,012 candidates proved the decision to amend Umno's constitution in 2009 was right and had received acceptance.

"Tonight (Saturday) is a historic night for Umno ... the journey to transform Umno started at its 2009 general assembly when we amended the constitution.

"This is so that Umno is an open democratic party, and today (Saturday) thank Allah it has been proven the decision was right and timely," he said.

Najib was speaking at a press conference after receiving a briefing on the conduct of the polls for the party's three wings - Wanita, Youth and Puteri - at Umno's headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre ( PWTC ) here Saturday night.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin , Umno Secretary-General Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, the party's elections committee chairman Tan Sri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and Information Chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

Before this, only around 2,000 delegates from all the three wings voted in their leaders at the central level as compared to almost a quarter of a million now.

Najib said although there were a few glitches at some divisions, overall he was thankful that Umno went through this election test with flying colours.

The Prime Minister said he and his deputy were truly proud of the capability of Umno's machinery at all levels, starting with the party headquarters, state headquarters, divisions and branches, which conducted the polls on a platform of more open and mature democracy.

"I in the name of the party and Umno's Supreme Council wish to record my highest thanks to all those who worked very hard in the background to make these polls a huge success. They are the unsung heroes.

"Just imagine the mammoth task we had to undertake in terms of preparation, logistics, training and guidance, all of which made the elections this time very challenging but worth it," he said.

Najib drew attention to the fact the wings polls this time saw 33,012 candidates contesting, 247,000 ballot papers issued for the three wings, 572 polling centres and involving 20,000 election volunteers.

Najib said the process used made Umno the most forward looking party in the country and

was one that could be used as a model by other parties.

"I mentioned to Muhyiddin, four years ago we could not have predicted this, but it appears the polls have not only attracted the attention of the media but Malaysians at large and foreigners alike. This is proof democracy is flourishing in Umno," he said.

On the few hiccups that arose and measures to overcome them before the polls for Umno's Supreme Council next Saturday, Najib said any weaknesses or shortcomings would be used as a guide to make improvements.

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