

**Every Decision Is Made In The Interest Of The People And Country - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- In facing criticisms against his leadership, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he makes decisions in the interest of the people and not at the behest of an individual.

Saying the criticisms he was currently receiving as more intense than before, the Prime Minister said he accepted them as part and parcel of politics and would continue to lead the country as long as he was given the mandate by the people.

"Instead, I accept these criticisms although they are painful. But, the bottom line is, I am responsible to the people and party.

"As long as the people and party give the mandate to me, placing their trust (in me), I will continue leading the nation and party," he said in an interview on a Special Edition of TV3's Soal Jawab (Question and Answer) programme which was aired tonight.

Najib said he was always evaluating every criticism he received and scrutinising shortcomings in his administration and in fact, was prepared to make improvements.

"But if I feel that if what I am doing is supported by the party and people I will continue my policies and decisions.

"Because in reality, the direction of the nation is not decided by any individual, but is decided by the people and party," Najib stressed.

When asked by host Hamdan Ahmir on his aspirations to the people in facing current challenges, Najib said what was important was to look at the issues from the direction and future of Malaysia.

"We should not allow an issue to be exaggerated to portray as if our country's economy is destroyed, or that the problem at hand can no longer be dealt with.

"It is not true at all. We must be confident we are heading in the right and positive direction," said Najib who wanted the people to be together with the current government and not overly politicise the situation to the extent of impacting national interest.

In the one-hour interview, the Prime Minister stressed that the people must realise that politics could never ever supercede national interest. "If all people realise this, God willing, we will have very bright future indeed.

"Our opinions can differ, no problem, as long as we use it in a good way, being prudent, full of responsibility. The future of Malaysia, God willing, is always assured," he said.

Najib said the biggest challenge of the government now was to tackle the perception of the people who were influenced by the power of the social media. In the meantime, Najib, who is also Umno president, express his thanks for the support he received from the members of the Cabinet, Barisan Nasional component parties and UMNO itself following criticisms hurled at him lately.

Asked about former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir's view that UMNO and BN would lose in the next general election if he continued to lead, Najib said he saw it as a personal view of the former prime minister.

He stressed, the question of UMNO and BN's success depended on the internal strength and unity among its members.

"Our strength will only become a success if we are together in the party. If we are united and don't squabble among us, no elements of sabotage, and what not, I am confident we can win in the coming general election," he said.

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