

**Every Prime Minister Has Done His Best For The Country - Najib  
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KLANG, May 16 (Bernama) -- Every prime minister has done and contributed his best to the country during his term, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"What is important is for us to do the best in our time because history will judge us, and I aim to do the best for the people," he said at the 'Evening with the Prime Minister', organised by the Selangor Ex-Assemblymen Association (Mubarak) and state Umno Liaison here Saturday.

"We know about Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-haj)'s contributions to the country.

"I cannot say I am better than Abdul Razak (Najib's father and Malaysia's second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein), and other leaders who became prime ministers."

Najib said he did not regard himself as the best prime minister compared to the five before him.

He said this in response to Selangor Mubarak head Tan Sri Abu Hassan Omar's remarks in his speech, that Najib was the best prime minister compared to others before him.

Also present at the function were Selangor UMNO Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar as well as 2,000 guests.

Najib said he did not have any intention in performing his responsibilities other than to lead the country and people in the best, transparent manner.

He said to this end, the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) initiated by his team had assisted in developing the country's economy.

"Through the ETP and GTP, we have achieved a six per cent growth rate.

How many countries can achieve that? We can count on the fingers of one hand, how many countries we have overtaken.

"In fact since becoming prime minister, our Gross National Income (GNI) in five years has increased by 49 per cent, which means our wealth has increased," he said.

Najib also repeated his commitment to do the best for the people and country despite facing various challenges and criticisms from various quarters.

Commenting on the criticisms of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad against

him, he said every prime minister had his challenges and tribulations during their respective administration including Dr Mahathir.

"When UMNO was tested with deregistration in 1987, Dr Mahathir had said even if he won by one vote, he would still be the prime minister; despite the fact that almost 50 per cent of UMNO members had rejected his leadership he did not step down.

"It means I will also practise the same principle; if I have the support, why should I step down? I was elected through a democratic process and those who elected me included all of you," he said.

On the new UMNO election system following amendments to the party constitution in 2009, which was implemented in the party election in 2013, Najib said it was to render it more transparent and open, including the election of UMNO's top posts.

"According to the previous UMNO constitution, if one wanted to challenge the party president, one needed to get the minimum vote from 63 divisions, so Dr Mahathir managed to remain as president and prime minister for 22 years.

"I, however, want UMNO to be more open to allow others to contest (for the party president post) but Alhamdulillah, I won unopposed and I did not have to depend on quota or bonus votes," he said.

Before UMNO's constitution was amended in 2009, a person contesting for the top party post needed to obtain a specific amount of support from 191 UMNO divisions, he said.

Quoting a Bugis philosophy, "walau bumi berkeping dua, tak kan mungkin ku berbalik haluan", Najib stressed that he would uphold his struggle not for power but commitment to do the best in our agenda towards developed nation status by 2020.

"Ensuring that UMNO and BN remain in power in this blessed land is another agenda we must defend. We will strengthen our coalition and work more persistently for BN to win in the 14th general election," he said to resounding cheers from those present.

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