

**Najib says he will continue to lead the country, Umno**  
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**By Muzliza Mustafa**

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he will continue to lead the country and Umno as long as he had the support, despite mounting criticism from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad over his handling of several problems facing the country.

He said Dr Mahathir had faced many leadership challenges during his time as party president and had even retained his post in the 1987 party election with the slimmest of margins.

"Anyone remember when Umno was banned in 1987? During Team A and Team B? What did Tun M say? He said even if he won with a one vote majority he will continue to be a prime minister.

"He won with 43 votes only. He continued to be a prime minister and I practice the same principal. If today I receive members support why should I step down?" said Najib.

He added that he had done away with a bonus vote system which made it difficult for anyone to challenge the party president or his deputy.

"But now I have changed the party constitution and removed the bonus votes.

"Whoever wants to contest they can do it. I won uncontested. I was elected through the democratic channel.

"I left my fate in the hand of the party and it has gave me the mandate (to be the president) so I will continue to serve the party," said Najib in front of hundreds of Selangor Umno division chiefs, government retirees and friends of the Barisan Nasional ruling party .

The event was organised by Malaysian Council of Former Elected Representatives and Umno Selangor Liason Committee at Klang Executive Club in Bukit Raja this evening.  
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