

Najib: Malays must have positive attitudes

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KUANTAN: Umno should not base its struggles solely on defending Malay special rights.

Party deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it was now more urgent for Umno to shift its focus towards instilling positive attitudes among the Malays.

"Umno will not succeed if we just continue to defend the (racial) status quo," he said while opening the Paya Besar Umno division meeting here yesterday.

"Yes, we can build this and that using the (political) powers that we have, but can we change the attitude of the Malays?"

"That is what we should ask ourselves, as this is the factor which will determine whether Malays can progress further."

Umno, he added, must act as the catalyst for the promotion of a culture of excellence and good behavioural practices in all fields.

Najib said Malays also needed to be urgently pushed to cast off the attitude of taking things easy if they want to preserve their cultural identity in a globalised world.

He said failure to take "an



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immediate quantum leap in the right direction" could spell doom for them.

He described the coming 15 years before Malaysia's 2020 target to be a fully developed country, as the most challenging period for the Malays.

"We could probably meet the deadline, but the question is, what would become of the Malays?"

"We certainly do not want Malays to lag behind then, and continue to rely on handouts."

Najib said acquisition of a first-class mentality, through efforts which could improve their human capital, should now be the main priority of Malays.

"For instance, a small-time Malay producer of goods should now be knowledgeable

enough to do something to improve his business, such as becoming a supplier to hypermarkets."

To ensure this message reached the Malay masses, Najib said Umno members and leaders had to maintain constant contact with the grassroots and continuously explain the challenges faced by the community.

Later at a Press conference, Najib, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, said Malaysia welcomed the United Nation's green light for Indonesia to send peacekeeping troops to war-ravaged Lebanon.

He described it as a positive sign for Malaysia as a meeting had been held with Indonesia and Brunei to jointly co-ordinate their peacekeeping efforts if allowed into Lebanon.

Israel had objected to the presence of peacekeeping troops in Lebanon from countries with no diplomatic relations with it.

However, it withdrew its objection against Indonesia on Saturday. Indonesia, like Malaysia, does not recognise the Jewish state.