Najib: Criticism won't sidetrack focus on 9MP

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PUTRAJAYA: The Government will not be sidetracked from implementing projects and programmes for the people despite coming under heavy criticism from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government would concentrate fully on fulfilling its promises to the people.

"The efforts, focus and concentration to implement projects as promised under the 9th Malaysia Plan must not be sidetracked. We must ensure they are carried out and this is the most important thing," he told reporters after chairing a meeting with mentris besar and chief ministers yesterday.

Najib stressed that the Government did not want to lose focus and would manage the situation.

"This is unprecedented. This is not something we have experienced before," he said, referring to the crisis between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his predecessor.

"At the end of the day, the Government needs the people's support and to have this (support), we have to ensure promises are delivered. We will manage and we will ensure the Government and the Prime Minister have the full support of the Cabinet, administration and party members," he added.

In Shah Alam, Umno information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said full support from all members was important to give the Prime Minister the confidence to carry out his responsibilities.

He said it would not be good if leaders and members were swayed and disturbed by certain issues.

Muhammad added that Umno members were intelligent and knew how to read the pulse of the country.

Meanwhile, Kubang Pasu members planned to meet Dr Mahathir to get him to stop criticising the Government openly, said the division's deputy chief Ahmad Zaini Japar.

"We believe he (Dr Mahathir) will listen to our views," he said, adding that the division was behind Abdullah and Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

He said Dr Mahathir should act like a "teacher" when giving his comments and not like the Opposition.

"We are worried that his criticism will jeopardise Barisan Nasional's strategies for the next general election," he said.