

Najib: Umno only relevant if it has people's support

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno will only be relevant if it has the support and encouragement of the people, Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said the party would become more relevant if it was closer to the hearts and the minds of the voters.

Therefore, there was a need for each party member to work as a team to make the party relevant and get the required support.

"We have no time for rhetoric or entertaining gossip. We need to be more focused and can't waste our

time on coffee shop talk and irrelevant political gossip," he said.

Najib also said Umno must be in the front line in whatever it did, including helping the people in times of crisis, such as a natural disaster.

The people would evaluate the role portrayed by Umno, he said in his speech before opening the Federal Territory Umno convention at PWTC.

Najib noted that the party has to face many challenges on urban development and its effects, such as rural-urban migration, poverty eradication and social problems.

On another matter, he said the cabinet has given the approval for the Urban Development Authority to

look into the development in Kampung Baru.

He said Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique was in consultation with residents and the Finance Ministry before a development plan was finalised.

"The prime minister told me he really hopes to see Kampung Baru become a developed area," he said.

At a press conference later, Najib expressed disappointment with the front-page article titled "Let's talk about sex" in the *Weekend Mail* and the extent of risqué details in it.

"I have been receiving so many SMS messages and calls following that article. It is irresponsible of the

paper to publish such an article," he said.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who did not even want to hold the newspaper at the press conference, said she was surprised at how a mainstream newspaper could publish such an article. She said it was not the first it had carried such stories.

"The paper should immediately stop this way of reporting as it is embarrassing and downright irresponsible and vulgar," Shahrizat said.

"This is not what Malaysia is all about when private things are only supposed to be discussed in bedrooms."