

Najib: Much to learn from our origins, history

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SHAH ALAM: Those who ignore their origins and history may lose their direction in life.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said mistakes would be repeated if history was not documented or ignored.

"History never lies. Those who are blind to their history will lose direction and not learn from their mistakes. History can also act as a mover or shaker to push one forward," he said.

Speaking at the launch of the Tun Abdul Razak Gallery in Universiti Teknologi Mara, Najib said he was proud to be a part of UiTM's history.

"Fifty years ago, the Dewan Latihan Rida (Rural Industrial Development Authority) was formed to educate the Bumiputera, who in 1956 were in poverty, uneducated and had no opportunity for further education.

"Rida has now become UiTM, and has seen many proud graduates walk through its gates," he said.

The gallery is named after the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, who laid the foundation stone for UiTM's Shah Alam campus in 1967.

The gallery charts UiTM's history from its inception to its present day, including recent achievements such as its Mount Everest and Antarctica projects.

"I hope the gallery will be a renowned reference centre both locally and internationally as it contains historical materials that can be used for future generations.

In his speech, Najib urged UiTM students to be far-sighted.

"The road to turning UiTM into an excellent institution is long, so we must persist in our endeavours and do all we can to excel."

"UiTM must not just produce professionals but they should be distinguished professionals. We must not merely churn out accountants but chartered accountants, not only doctors but specialist doctors, not just architects but chartered architects," he said.