

PM: Teachers strengthen leadership

PUTRAJAYA: Allowing graduate teachers to take an active part in politics will strengthen political leadership in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Najib said graduate teachers were generally well respected within the community where they serve. He said the knowledge and position they have would allow them to contribute towards creating better political values.

“I would like to see intellectual qualities in the leadership at the grassroots level - one that is based on non-materialistic values,” he told a press conference after launching the “Tun Abdul Razak The Father of Development - A Telling of the Story” programme here.



Father figure: Najib standing near a paper cut-out of his late father, former premier Tun Abdul Razak during the exhibition at Putrajaya International Convention Centre, Putrajaya Wednesday.

On fears that factionalism would result, he said: “We are reverting to how things used to be (when teachers were allowed to be involved in politics).”

“I do not feel teachers will act in too extreme a manner because they are mature in their thinking,” he said.

Najib said he hoped teachers would not neglect their role as educators.

On whether the government would look at allowing other categories of public servants to actively take part in politics, he said, teachers do not hold executive positions that might see conflicts of interest in the decisions they make.