

Najib doubts PAS ability to form next govt

PEKAN: PAS claims of being ready to form the next government is a political statement made to gain extra political mileage, said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

In reality, the people have always doubted whether PAS could really govern the country as their policies at state and

national level were inconsistent and lacked credibility, he claimed.

"Their policies could not bring success to Malaysia," he said after closing a motivational workshop at SMK Seri Pekan.

He added that PAS' policies, such as those involving women, could only repress women's potentials.

Najib was commenting on a statement by PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang at the PAS 49th general assembly on Friday that he had set up an "election Cabinet" in preparation to the general election.

In Penang, DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh said PAS would fail in its objective to

form the next government if it chose to ignore other component parties in the opposition front.

"PAS should be realistic. Visions of grandeur in capturing federal power and in the process sidelining component partners cannot make the party realise its objective," he said in a statement here yesterday.

On the RM8.5bil allocation for the Defence Ministry under Budget 2004, Najib, who is Defence Minister, said the sum would be spent accordingly among the three branches of the armed forces.

"It may not be an allocation of one-third each but it will be a balanced budget for all the forces," he said.