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BN speakers to provide answers

Ahmad Suffian

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Barisan Nasional information committee will deploy 30,000 to 40,000 campaigners nationwide to rebut issues raised by the Opposition.

Director of operations Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaacob said BN had many speakers who could counter the incorrect statements made by the Opposition "to gain political mileage."

"Whatever the issues are, we need to answer them with relevant facts and accurate information as we believe the Opposition will continue to twist the facts to create more new issues during the campaign period."

Speaking to reporters after meeting with BN information chiefs at the BN operations room at Putra World Trade Centre, Khalil said: "The Government must explain its efforts in developing the country while BN being a political party, needs to act on the Government's behalf to rebut the issues raised by the Opposition.

"This is our strategy and the way we work ... we have many speakers at all levels and among them are some very good and can rebut the Opposition's claims with factual information.

"For each constituency, we need a few speakers to conduct ceramah every night in the villages to prevent the people there from being influenced by the Opposition."

Khalil, who is also Umno secretary-general, said in contrast to the Opposition, the BN did not have any issues to raise but would highlight its performance and achievements after obtaining the people's mandate in 1995.

"The Opposition has made many allegations against the Government without bothering to check if their facts were correct.

"Whatever the Government has done, it was for the benefit of the people but it seems that the Opposition's task is simply to twist the facts to create new issues.

"It is now the responsibility of the BN information committee to rebut them with correct statements and provide relevant information to all Malaysians."

He said some of the issues raised could be localised issues and as such, the respective state BN chiefs would gather speakers to rebut them during ceramah sessions that would be held every night.

"Even the 2000 Budget has become an issue for the Opposition who claim that the BN will not keep its promise to implement it.

"We need to explain to Malaysians that should the BN be given the mandate once again, we will surely keep our promises to give the benefits and allowances accorded in the budget, and maybe much more."

He added that advertisements would be placed in the media. Pamphlets and other printed material would also be distributed to all State information committees.

"Once the BN manifesto is revealed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a few days, it will be translated into major languages like Bahasa Malaysia, English, Chinese, Tamil and other ethnic languages in Sabah and Sarawak."

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