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Thumbs up for BN manifesto

PEKAN, Mon. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Barisan Nasional manifesto depicted the theme of a free country capable of making decisions independently and defending its freedom from foreign interference.

He said the importance of unity and acting in an integrated manner was also stressed.

"This means that all the communities must not only stay united but also work together as a team and with one voice, just like what the BN is practising," he said.

He said the manifesto showed Malaysia was on the verge of becoming a fully-developed nation.

"If the BN is given a fresh mandate, the objective will become a reality," he said.

In Kuantan, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the manifesto was proof that everything was planned with the interest of the people in mind.

She said the manifesto called for close co-operation among the various communities.

"This is necessary so that development programmes can be implemented smoothly, taking the country to greater heights in the next millennium."

In Sungai Siput, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said it was "a winning formula" for the coalition, which stressed on freedom since the first general election in 1955.

"The people have enjoyed freedom over the years and this was complemented by our democratic practice," he added.

Speaking after officiating the opening of the RM6.5 million flyover at Kampung Sungai Buloh here today, he said, "if the rakyat can continue to strive for freedom and democracy, it will bring greater unity and development".

He was accompanied by Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, who is defending the Sungai Siput parliamentary seat. Also present were BN candidates for the State seats of Jalong and Lintang Datuk Chang Ko Youn and Padil Harun, respectively.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said: "It is simple and what we promise we keep. It's a people's manifesto irrespective of race or religion. We stand on track record for we want peace, stability and development."

In Petaling Jaya, the Alternative Front spokesman Rustam Sani said although BN leaders had claimed that their manifesto was short and simple, it actually contained a lot of jargon, which made it hard for the people to understand.

"There is no change in their manifesto over the years."

Dr Mahathir had said that the BN manifesto, themed - "Malaysia - Free, United, Successful", was deliberately worded in simple language for the people to understand its promises.

Rustam added that the BN had to speak more eloquently to the people and the manifesto was not a very good document for a fully democratic election.

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