12/07/2002

Najib: Pas trying to create unrest

reports on "Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections" by Zubaidah Abu

ALOR STAR, Thurs. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak today brushed aside claims by Pas that investors were being scared away due to confusion that there were two Prime Ministers in the country.

He said this was just another ploy by Pas to create unrest among the people as there was no truth in these claims.

"In fact, investors have expressed confidence in a smooth transition of power.

"There is only one Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad now and after October (next year), his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will take over. Everything has been well-structured," he said before visiting Chinese residents in Anak Bukit, near here.

Yesterday, Pas central committee member Mohamad Sabu said in a ceramah that investors were confused over the transition of power and some were under the impression that there were two Prime Ministers.

Najib said Malaysia is a democratic country and while its leaders were open to criticisms, they were against cursing, swearing and launching personal attacks against others.

"Having different ideologies and beliefs is all right. But we should not go to the extent of making personal attacks and labelling other leaders as haprak (useless) when given the chance to speak," he said.

Najib said the word haprak was an ugly term and only reflected what Pas was actually all about.

"The voters can assess for themselves what is true and false. We will not counter their (Pas) attacks."

On the campaign trail so far, Najib said the Barisan Nasional election machinery was working well and supporters were in high spirits.

He said he received a report today from MCA central committee member Datuk Chor Chee Heung that the Chinese community in Anak Bukit was very comfortable with the BN candidate and has assured him (Chor) of its full support.

Chor is also heading the MCA's campaign in Anak Bukit.

"The Chinese community understands that good economics, business and educational opportunities, equal rights and a safe environment can only be achieved under the BN leadership," Najib said.

He said progress in Anak Bukit was a spillover effect from the BN State and Federal Governments, with nothing from Pas.