

Najib preps for GE as BN MPs meet tomorrow
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has dropped the strongest hints so far that snap polls are looming by confirming that he is meeting all BN MPs tomorrow.

"Everything is geared towards the GE because we want to be re-elected," said Najib at a press conference today.

"We want to serve the people and let the people decide."

The meeting will see all 137 BN MPs holding one-to-one meetings with the premier at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) between 9.30am to 4.30pm.

According to a source, the BN MPs will be given five-minutes to inform Najib, who is the BN chairperson, about issues within their respective constituencies, election promises that have yet to be delivered and issues concerning the opposition parties.

The meeting is held amidst strong speculation that Najib will call early polls this year, two years before the current term ends.

During the press conference, Najib tried to play down the meeting, stating that it was a "normal" process.

"They want to meet with me and I want to meet with the MPs to understand their respective constituencies.

"This is part of the political transformation that I had stated," he said, adding that it has nothing to do with cabinet reshuffle.

Some MPs prefer speaking in private

According to Gelang Patah MP Tan Ah Eng, a BN Backbenchers Council (BNBBC) committee member that organised the event, the meeting does not mean that polls are near.

"We always have pre-council meeting before every Parliament session but it usually takes only one hour. We find that the time is too short for each MP to convey his or her message and problem to the prime minister.

"It is not easy for us to meet the prime minister. Hence we decided to have a longer meeting so we can explain issues in the constituency and public feedback to him.

"There is nothing unusual. It is not because of general election," she said when contacted today.

She explained that some BN MPs have requested for the one-to-one session with the premier because they were uncomfortable talking about their constituencies in front of others.

Senators, coordinators not invited

Meanwhile, a check with some BN leaders revealed that senators with government post as well as BN coordinators who have "adopted" opposition seats were not invited to attend the meeting.

"Maybe the coordinators will have another meeting with the prime minister because their problems are different with MPs," said a BN coordinator in Selangor.

After the setback in last general election, BN had appointed coordinator in each opposition parliamentary constituency and supported them with government allocation.

These coordinators stand a high chance of being fielded in the next general election as BN candidate.

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