

PM zeros in on transformation at MPs meet
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today played down the oft-speculated snap polls, which has heightened due the unprecedented full-day meeting he had with nearly all BN MPs.

Speaking at a press conference after the meet, he said that the real objective of the exercise was about "long-term political transformation".

"This is just a way for us to gauge how our MPs can be more effective in serving their constituents. The fact that our BN slogan is 'People First' means that we have to ensure the effectiveness of all our MPs.

"The MPs will also need support from the federal and state government so that they can channel public grouses to the leadership, and at the same time, we can help them to be a more effective in the eyes of the public.

"That is the real reason of why we're here today," he said.

Najib recalled that he had pressed for the need of a transformation during his presidential address at the last Umno general assembly three months ago.

"We have started our transformation. All of the BN leadership from the top to the grassroots will undergo this transformation process through many of the methods that we have drawn out," he said in Putra World Trade Centre this evening.

What snap polls?

But when pressed about the link between today's series of meetings and the general elections, Najib brushed it off.

"No, I don't think you understand. This is a transformation process. The general elections is just a part of it," he said.

Najib became visibly annoyed when journalists persisted about the timing of the general elections.

"How can you ask me that?" he retorted before moving to another question.

The eight-hour meeting today saw 105 BN members of parliament including deputy ministers and backbenchers having a brief one-on-one meeting with Najib.

Armed with a report on their constituencies that they are supposed to present to the top party leadership, they had also briefly told the premier about the pressing issues in each of their areas.

As for the parliamentary seats which are under Pakatan Rakyat's control, Najib said that he will be meeting with the respective BN division heads soon for a similar exercise.

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