

S'wak BN reps try to get tall tales past Najib
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Some BN state assemblypersons were caught telling lies about themselves when they met Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak for a face-to-face session in Miri, Sarawak, last week. The meetings, held in anticipation of state polls expected to be announced soon, were a follow-up to the meeting Najib had with BN members of parliament in Kuala Lumpur on Jan 8.

According to BN state representatives Dr Jerip Susil (right) from the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) vice-president Daud Abdul Rahman, some of their colleagues were caught telling such tall tales that it had upset even the prime minister.

"He (Najib) has all the information in a record book on each of us from Barisan Nasional," said Jerip, who holds the Bengoh seat.

"The information is gathered by the special branch of the police, Information Department and other relevant agencies.

"Although we met the prime minister one by one, the others waiting could hear the conversation.

"I heard some trying to say something, then Najib (left) flipped over the pages of the 'record book' and asking, 'Are you sure?' in a clear voice," Jerip said.

There were several instances when, asked about the demographics of their constituencies, some state assemblypersons tried to beat around the bush instead of admitting ignorance.

Given the importance of such information on demographics - such as the percentage of each community's representation - to voting patterns, "the prime minister was not amused with that kind of answer," said Jerip. He said he did not face problems at the session.

Daud (right), who is also Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office and holds the Tupong state seat, said some assemblypersons had given themselves unbelievably high ratings.

"When they talked highly of themselves, the prime minister told them off to their face. Najib did not hide his displeasure at these YBs," said Daud.

There were some assemblypersons, on the other hand, who gave themselves a low rating although Najib knew they had been performing well in their constituencies.

"Najib knows that these are the type of elected representatives who have a better chance of retaining their seats in the election," he added.