

PM's and DPM's tour 'nothing to do with GE'
Malaysiakini.com
February 28, 2011

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin's plan to tour the nation in the coming three months has nothing to do with snap polls despite strong speculation, Umno vice-president Hishammuddin Hussein told a press conference in Putrajaya today.

Hishammuddin (left) is leading the steering committee for the tour together with other two veeps - Shafie Apdal and Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. This has nothing to do with the general election because we have done it before," said Hishammuddin, referring to the previous meetings of Najib with BN MPs, state assemblypersons and Umno division chiefs.

The tour will kick off next month and finish by June this year, with both the premier and his deputy visiting two states separately in every month.

However they will visit the first state, Sarawak, together next month. The state is gearing up for its state polls speculated to be held in April.

Hishammuddin added that the tour is for Najib and Muhyiddin to understand the situation on the ground, and to make sure the government's promises have been materialised in each area.

"This also shows the party's commitment. There will be announcements made by them when they are on the ground, to solve issues that affect the state," the home minister said.

Ahmad Zahid added that this is a continuation of Najib's meeting with BN lawmakers and the BN convention that will be held in Kuching this weekend.

"He wants to see to what extent the programmes and promises of the lawmakers have been done, what are the weaknesses and how to solve them."

When asked whether Najib and Muhyiddin want to take this opportunity to "check" on the performance of BN representatives, Hishammuddin answered with a smile, "You have to ask the prime minister." Another committee that consists of all presidents from BN component parties will be set up to handle the tour, Hishammuddin added.

'Videos show good treatment of protesters'

On a separate issue, Hishammuddin said the police had video-recorded the action and behavior of Hindraf protesters yesterday, including how they were treated after detained by police. The police have learnt their lessons from the past experience of handling this group of people.

"There are videos showing that police gave them good treatment in terms of food and drink (during the detention). If anybody alleges we had abused them, we have concrete proof to deny it."

He told the media that the attorney-general's chambers and police are now studying the Hindraf cases.

"Those for which there is strong evidence will be charged in court. They had been given stern warnings... They are an illegal organisation. I believe we have enough evidence."

The Human Rights Party (HRP) held a rally yesterday in the capital to protest against controversial textbook 'Interlok', which was disrupted after police launched a preemptive crackdown by arresting key leaders even before they started the rally.

A total of 109 people were arrested in the operation.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.

Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/157304>