

Opposition crafty at toying with perception, says Najib
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak fired one salvo after another at Pakatan Rakyat, claiming that they have been crafty at 'playing with perception' to confuse the people.

Therefore, as Umno president, he urged his party members to combat the Opposition's tactics of perception so that BN is "seen as a party that can implement".

Najib at Pandan Umno AGMSpeaking to the Umno Ampang division delegates at their annual general meeting in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon, Najib (right) also reminded them that times are changing - from the good old days when even inanimate objects could win elections if they stood under the BN flag.

"Our environment's changing. It was easy the last time. If we were to put a songkok (in the elections), it could also win. But now, with information communication technology, Facebook, Twitter, emails and text messages, communication is no longer controlled by us.

"Don't think like we are still in the past. Umno has been in power since independence, but the environment has now changed and people are becoming smarter and more educated through the federal government's education policies.

"With this big change, we must also change so that Umno is seen to be more dynamic than the other parties, because politics is all about perception," he said.

With no love for the Opposition and with veiled barbs thrown at its leader Anwar Ibrahim (left) and his ongoing sodomy trial, Najib spent a portion of his speech casting aspersions on Anwar's character and morals, but without naming names.

"They can claim all sorts of things. DNA, also don't want to give, and the Omega watch he does not want to show. Their morals are being questioned - not by us, but by their own people.

"It's not us who brought him to court, but his former personal assistant. That jambu (a Malay term for a pretty boy) was his man.

"Why would they want to meet at a secret place in a condominium? Why not just meet at the office or at his house? It's the people who can tell this. They can continue to play this game of perception so we also have to strategise ourselves," said Najib.

Using his oft-repeated message to quell infighting in the party, he also urged the members to close ranks now that they have tasted defeat in the last general election.

"Don't just sit around and mope and have an inferiority complex. Learn from your mistakes and you should know what to do - close and stop fighting. Rise from your defeat and fight endlessly," he said.

PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin defeated BN's Ampang candidate Azman Wahid with a 3,676-vote majority in the 2008 general election.

'We are not one-sided to the IPPs'

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters later, Najib denied that the government has been one-sided towards the independent power producers (IPPs), most of which are owned by local tycoons.

"The IPPs now, most of their formulas are no longer one-sided. We are negotiating with the IPPs, but it's not correct that we are protective of them. We aren't. We protect the rakyat," he said.

When asked about whether the government will be releasing the power purchase agreements signed between the IPPs and national energy provider Tenaga Nasional Berhad, the PM however kept mum.

husni eon bank function 120310 ahmad husni "We will address it later, in the not-too-distant future. Give (the ministers) time. When they're ready, we'll make a statement," he said when pressed, referring to Finance Minister II Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah's (left) announcement that the cabinet has set up a committee to study all aspects of power supply.

In a 2006 interview with Starbiz, former TNB chairman Ani Arope had said TNB was forced by the Economic Planning Unit - which comes under the purview of the prime minister - to sign agreements which he claimed were unfair and were one-sided to the IPPs back in the 1990's.

When asked about Subang Jaya assemblyperson Hannah Yeoh's 'appeal' to him to register her baby daughter as 'Anak Malaysia' in the race column of her birth certificate, Najib said that he will have to study the details with the relevant department first, but said that she can appeal like everyone else.

Meanwhile, as a reporter asked about his recent trip to Kazakhstan and Kuala Selangor MP Dzulkefly Ahmad's claims that it was also timed for his daughter's wedding, Najib cut her off midway and scoffed at it.

"No no no. It's all been answered. It's all lies," he said before leaving the room.

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