

Penang journalists: Genuine reforms, please
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Selangor BN liaison chief Najib Abdul Razak today urged coalition members to stop making misleading reports of BN's standing in the state as this had led to its 2008 defeat.

Speaking at the Selangor BN convention at Shah Alam today, Najib (left) who is also prime minister, said that writers of such reports only "fool themselves".

"Don't syok sendiri (indulge in self-praise), I have been in politics for 35 years; I know the game.

"I don't use reports like these, that say 300 people attended our programme so we have succeeded...no way.

"You are fooling yourselves...if the 300 are (merely) division chiefs and hardcore supporters," he said to an audience of 3,000.

He added that if it had not been for such misleading reports, BN could have acted to stem the drain in support in Selangor prior to the 2008 election.

"The problem with BN is we think we are strong. If the reports (in 2008) were right, we would not have lost in Selangor, we could have taken remedial actions," he said.

In his hard-hitting spirited opening speech, Najib also urged Selangor BN to take stock of the "bitter experience" of losing Selangor and stop relying on the federal government in the take-over effort.

He said that Selangor BN appears to have not woken up the fact that it is not in power anymore, as it still has the "father" that is the federal government who could give it "whatever is asked for".

"As the opposition we must be sharper. Don't rely on the government, to the Information Department, the Special Affairs Department (Jasa) and Community Development Department (Kemas). What's wrong with us?

'Infighting cost us'

He added that infighting has also been costly for the BN, whose members had "betrayed" the coalition in previous elections because of this.

"If we have not been betrayed, we would not have lost," he said. To resounding applause, Najib called for all leaders to sign a pledge that they will not sabotage BN candidates if the leaders have not been selected to contest.

"Are those who have already tailored their bush jackets willing to support another candidate if they are not selected themselves? If they are willing, then we can win," he said.

Najib added that Selangor BN should focus its attention on the youth and first time voters.

"We must be seen as a progressive party of the future.

"We must make sure our image and approach is 'cool' so that these 'bro's' will support us," he said, trying out youth lingo to much amusement.

Selangor BN convention aims to map its battle plan to wrest power from Pakatan Rakyat, that took over the state government during BN's shock defeat in the 2008 general election.

The PM can call snap polls anytime from now until March 2013, but the Pakatan Selangor government has said that it might not dissolve the state assembly concurrently with Parliament's dissolution.

Also present today were PPP president M Kayveas, Selangor Gerakan chief A Kohilan Pillay, MIC president G Palanivel, Selangor MCA chief Donald Lim, Selangor BN deputy liaison chief Noh Omar, BN secretary general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

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