

Not delivering on budget would be 'suicide'

Malaysiakini.com

October 08,2011

By S Pathmawathy

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said it will be akin to political suicide should his government be unable to fulfil the promises made in the Budget 2012 speech yesterday.

"Do we have (the) money to implement? Got. If (there is) no money, I would not have tabled it yesterday.

"I will be committing suicide politically if I tabled a budget that the government cannot deliver on," he told reporters after a meet-and-greet session with some 2,000 residents in Kundang, Kuang in Selangor today.

The premier was responding to the opposition's criticisms that the government does not have the funds to achieve its grand promises.

"Our budget is transparent. So what we do is also within our capabilities and within that, we have said what we are able to do," he said.

In his Budget 2012 speech delivered at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Najib had said that the government expects economic growth to remain strong - between 5 and 5.5 percent this year, after allocating the RM232.8 billion for next year.

Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim had pooh poohed his conviction, describing the forecast as "unrealistic".

He pointed out that no measures had been announced to rectify the deficit problem that has beleaguered Malaysia for the past 15 years.

The former deputy prime minister and finance minister also accused Putrajaya of "lifting" portions of Pakatan Rakyat's alternative budget.

However, Najib looking unperturbed, brushed aside the Anwar's concerns as nothing but a "political reaction .

"Actually, our budget is prepared based on facts well researched by the government other relevant parties involved in preparing the federal budget including officers and experts from the Finance Ministry, Bank Negara and the EPU (Economic Planning Unit).

"So it is not possible for them not know what should be tabled as facts for the government's perusal," said Najib.

"What is important is the implementation and when implementation is effective later everything will be answered," he added.

Najib said that he would interested in knowing Anwar's comments when the announced policies are successfully implemented.

"That will answer everything," he added.

Meanwhile, greeting some 2,000 residents at Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan (Cina) Kundang, Najib trumpeted his budget promises to contain the rising cost of living.

He said that the implementation of Skim Amanah Rakyat 1Malaysia (or Sara) for households with

incomes below RM3,000 per month to raise their disposable incomes and encourage savings, would benefit everyone.

The local residents, who had organised a series of cultural shows to welcome Najib, were also pleased with his announcement that the government will start rolling out plans to improve access to Kundang.

He drew a round of loud spontaneous applause when he said this would include consulting the KL-Kuala Selangor Expressway (Latar) builders to consider the construction of an access road to Kundang.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

<http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/178081>