

## **Urbanites will have better future with BN, says Najib**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**June 12, 2012**

**By Nigel Aw**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has urged urban voters to back BN as the coalition is likelier to deliver on its promises.

“They have to understand that their future will be better with BN as we ensure peace, stability, harmony and a more prosperous society,” he said in a live chat organised by New Straits Times this afternoon.

This, he said, is because BN has a better “degree of certainty” in its ability to deliver.

Najib was responding to a netizen’s question on BN’s difficult task in capturing the urban vote.

Asked by another netizen on what goodies were in store for the middle class as the lower income group has already received many, he replied: “This is subject to our ability to restructure the revenue base for the country.

“If we can increase our sources of revenue, then we could consider a medium-term reduction in personal income tax and provide more incentives.”

He added that the creation of higher-paying jobs and other initiatives such as housing and health programmes and improvement to public transportation will also benefit the middle class.

Responding to a question that cash handouts such as BR1M to the poor was not a lasting solution, the premier said the country has the means of implementing both short- and long-term measures.

“But for the long-term, we are addressing it through measures such as increasing the pay of civil servants by between seven and 13 per cent, introducing the minimum wage for the private sector and creating more jobs through our ETP programme,” he said.

**Crime-busting: More needs to be done**

Asked to comment on Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein’s claim that the recent spate of crimes was not indicative of a rising crime rate, Najib said the crime rate was in fact going down.

“But more has to be done to ensure that the rakyat feels more secure,” he said.

The premier also took notes of request from netizens, such as calls for a Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia in Alor Gajah and to improve Internet accessibility in Sarawak.

To a question on what the prime minister will wear for Hari Raya, Najib replied: “It could be

blue for BN or red for Umno”.

The live chat today was part of a series of media offensives by the premier in the run-up to the general election, widely speculated to be called this year.

In April, Najib appeared on a Chinese television show for a live interview on ntv7.

A month before that, the premier took to the airwave in a live interview on Mandarin radio station 988.

Since last year, Najib has hit the airwaves on Hot FM, Fly FM and One FM as well as a live interview on TV3.

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