

Najib desperate over looming general election

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The proposed RM1.5 million bonus allocation to each BN-held constituency was a sign that Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is feeling desperate, said his chief opponent Anwar Ibrahim.

During a press conference at the Parliament lobby today, Anwar, who is opposition leader, said if the proposal is implemented the government would be blatantly ignoring its financial regulations.

According to The Malaysian Insider, this was decided at the BN pre-council meeting last night.

According to the report, the bonus allocation would be announced as part of Budget 2013, scheduled to be announced on Sept 28 by Najib, who is also the finance minister.

“The prime minister also (reportedly) said they (BN MPs) can spend in cash, giving RM1,000 to RM5,000 to their constituents. This is not proper,” said Anwar.

“They are not concerned about financial regulations, they don’t care about finances.”

Currently, the federal government allocates RM1 million to each BN MP annually for small ticket items such as school refurbishment and donations.

According to Malaysian Insider, Najib is also considering a second round RM500 cash handouts under the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) scheme.

Gov't not serious on RCI

The first round of BR1M had cost rate-payers RM2.6 billions under Budget 2012.

Echoing Anwar, Lim said the proposed bonus allocation was akin to vote buying. This, he said, reflected the government's lack of commitment towards Bersih 2.0's demands.

"One of of it is to stop corruption and dirty politics, but this is ignored," he said.

On a related development, Anwar said that Pakatan Rakyat will be submitting names of 26,000 voters in Selangor which they claim were suspicious.

He explained that the 26,000 voters were born in Sabah.

On the proposed Royal Commission of Inquiry on Sabah's illegal immigration problem, Anwar said the government was dragging its feet on its establishment.

He said it has been months since cabinet decided on the RCI, but the panel and terms of reference have yet to be finalised and it showed that they were not serious about the RCI.

Cabinet decided on the RCI, which has been long been demanded by indigenous BN component parties, on Feb 2.

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