Najib: Debates not our political culture
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By Nigel Aw

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today brushed aside the series of debates between BN and Pakatan Rakyat representatives, pointing out that this was not the country's political culture.

"It is not necessarily a culture, depending on the situation.

"If there is a need for debate between leaders, then there can be debates. But it is not a political culture as a whole in our country's system," Najib told a press conference at the Umno headquarters in Kuala Lumpur after chairing the party's supreme council meeting this evening.

The important issue, he said, was for the rakyat to have sufficient information to make their political choices.

"We are already giving chance to political parties to present their respective manifestos when the time (for election) comes and they're also very active now in having ceramah sessions everyday," he added.

Asked if this meant that he would not accept Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim's repeated challenge to a debate, Najib replied: "I did not say anything.

"What is important is that the rakyat gets enough information to make their decision as to whether our agenda or the opposition's agenda is better, whether we or the opposition can do better in delivering (on promises)," he said.

‘Will Pakatan respect BN win?’

On another matter, Najib described the sudden resignation of Selangor Economic Advisory Office chief executive and PKR rising star Rafizi Ramli as another sign of the party's growing pains in the state.

"Recently, there appears to be serious split in the PKR leadership in Selangor. People do not resign all of a sudden.

“I believe the people can make their own judgment and decide which party they should choose that can provide stability and confidence to the people," the prime minister said.

On calls by DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang for BN to ensure to smooth transition of power should Pakatan capture federal power in the next general election, Najib described it as a mere "academic matter".

"I can also ask the same question: if we (BN) win big, will they respect the decision of the

general election?" he said.

Najib added that the most important thing was for the government to ensure that it was strong and stable to ensure that the country's transformation could be carried out successfully.

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