

PM appeals to S'gor youth to drop confrontational culture
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With the 13th general election edging closer, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is taking a traditional route as well - through snail mail and in three languages - to reach out to young voters in Selangor.

Selangor is believed to be the state with the largest number of young voters and BN is keen to wrest back the state - considered the ruling coalition's crown jewel as it is the richest and most developed in the country.

Over the past few days, a number of youths have posted these letters, addressed to them by name, on the Internet. Some are not happy about the unsolicited letter, while others are amused.

Najib, who is Selangor BN chief, in the letter urges the youth of Selangor to drop what he described as a "confrontational culture", which has been developed since 2008, for the benefit of Malaysia's multiracial society.

"Although there are many reasons, we must not forget this: Our non-confrontational culture, which has allowed our country to develop rapidly over the past decade.

"In simple terms, this 'non-confrontational culture' means that we don't openly and relentlessly discuss sensational or sensitive topics.

"Everybody has a right to make a demand, but we can't please everybody 100 percent. Malaysia's different races understand this simple philosophy," Najib says in his letter.

Tackling 'bad culture'

According to Selangor BN publicity chief Yap Pian Hon, the letters were sent out before the Malaysia Day celebration weekend, in Bahasa Malaysia, English and Chinese.

Although he is unsure of the number of letters sent, Yap said not everyone received it because the recipients were picked at random.

Thus far, Malaysiakini has sighted the Chinese version of the letter and we are working to obtain those in Bahasa and English. Yap said all three versions carry identical content.

He confirmed that the prime minister was aware of the letters, but this could not be verified with Wong Nai Chee, one of Najib's press secretaries and adviser on Chinese affairs.

Yap said the main purpose of the letter was to remind the younger generation that Malaysia needs a "non-confrontational" culture to move forward, instead of what he described as the prevailing "bad culture".

BN leaders have often accused Pakatan Rakyat of promoting hatred that is aimed at the federal government. However, Pakatan maintains that it is merely playing its watchdog role.

"Our country is facing this problem. A lot of fictional things are being spread through the Internet. We should not continue this bad culture," Yap said.

Asked how Selangor BN had managed to track down the letter recipients, Yap said "all sorts" of methods were employed, but he was unsure of the details.

Besides these letters, many thousands of voters in Selangor have received 'Selamat Menyambut Hari Malaysia' postcards from Najib, carrying, among others, the 1Malaysia and BN logos.

The postcards also come in the name of Najib as prime minister and Selangor BN chief and the message on the reverse of the postcard states, Sayangi Selangor, Yakini BN (Love Selangor, Trust BN).

Addressed to the homes of the voters, the cards provide details of their voting localities and the state and parliamentary seats they would be voting in, as well as the Selangor BN hotline number and email address.

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