

## **Najib can no longer campaign as PM, says PAS**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**April 3, 2013**

**By Ram Anand**

With the dissolution of Parliament, Najib Razak can no longer campaign as prime minister, as BN is now only a caretaker government, said PAS vice president Mahfuz Omar.

Mahfuz (left) in a statement today reminded Najib that the BN as a caretaker government should observe the appropriate restrictions such as official duties as signing of major projects and handing out aid to the people in the name of the government.

"After waiting long enough to chart a record-breaker, the PM has finally announced the dissolution of Parliament yesterday.

"I call on the PM and all office bearers in the executive - whether cabinet members or state exco members - to fully observe the principles, practices and conventions of a caretaker government to the fullest," he said.

Among the practices Mahfuz highlighted were:

1. The posts of prime minister, cabinet ministers and state heads should be primarily to carry out day to day administrative duties;
2. They should go down to the ground and campaign only in the capacity as party members and not as prime minister, cabinet ministers and state heads;
3. They should not enter into or sign any new agreements especially involving large projects that impact on federal finances;
4. They should not make any announcement on or officiate any project or government initiative;
5. They should not announce or give any form of assistance or allocation from federal funds whether in the form of cash, grants, bonuses or material gifts;
6. They should not make any appointment, change or reshuffling of personnel within organisations controlled by the government;
7. They should not abuse the government machinery, funds, vehicles, civil service staff and other facilities to campaign and to canvass votes;
8. They should not organise any gatherings, programmes or activities involving civil servants and the public via the ministries, departments and agencies that can be seen to be campaigning or having political influences;
9. They should not use government premises for party purposes;

10. They should not use their positions to blackmail or indoctrinate civil servants, students and the public to vote for them; and,

11. Ensure that government owned mass media give balanced and fair coverage to all contesting political parties.

Mahfuz said the party viewed this matter seriously, and would take action should office bearers fail to comply with any of these practices.

After months of playing a guessing game with voters, Prime Minister Najib Razak finally announced the dissolution of Parliament yesterday, paving the way for the long awaited 13th general election.

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