

Najib: Who do you trust - Anwar, Hadi or me?

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The 13th general election boils down to one question: Who do you trust to lead Malaysia? BN chief Najib Abdul Razak, PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim or PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

This was the message driven down by Najib as he launched the ruling coalition's manifesto at the Stadium Putra at Bukit Jalil tonight.

And much to his delight, the 15,000-odd BN supporters roared back: "Najib!"

"Humbly, I say, that if the answer is Najib then support and vote for BN because I cannot do this alone. I need my team (to be with me)," he said.

According to Najib, Anwar has already failed the trustworthiness test because he was unable to prove his mettle as finance minister.

"He goes around saying how long he was in government but it's not the length of time but what you did when you had power.

"What did he do during the (1997) financial crisis? Nothing. He wanted to hand over everything to the International Monetary Fund. If it was that easy, all of you might as well be finance minister," he quipped.

'Loyalty is my principle'

Tearing apart his nemesis, he said that unlike Anwar, he has been in service for 37 years and rose up the ranks bit by bit without "backstabbing" anyone.

"I started as a backbencher, then deputy minister, then minister, menteri besar, deputy prime minister, then PM.

"The principle of my struggle is that of loyalty to my superiors.

"I served under three prime ministers and was loyal to all. Was Anwar loyal? Definitely not," said Najib who rose to PM after Abdullah Ahmad Badawi stepped down due to internal party pressure.

He added that Anwar's trustworthiness is even more suspect considering the fact that many of his allies and friends eventually abandoned him.

To prove that he and his team can be trusted, he said that the manifesto launched tonight is a "pledge" (aku janji) to the nation.

"Let the opposition claim that a manifesto is not a promise...To BN, a manifesto is very serious... It is a pledge to the people of Malaysia," he said.

Of fantasies and dreams

He said that BN takes its promises so seriously that he had even presented a report card of the government's performance after four years, unlike Pakatan governments who have fulfilled only a fraction of its 2008 manifesto.

"Their manifesto is a manifesto of fantasies and dreams."

Worst still, he said, the Pakatan Selangor government had failed to put the people first by prioritising the takeover of water companies over the supply of treated water, by blocking the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

"This is not a problem which should be faced in a country that is on the cusp of being a developed country.

"There is only one option left. Want a solution to the water problem, let BN take over Selangor," he said.

Calling the rakyat "BN's boss", Najib conceded that he may have made mistakes before and for this he apologised.

"I am only human, but I promise to do the best for Malaysia, this lucky country, for our children and grandchildren.

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