

PM: Victory more important than majority
Malaysiakini.com
Oct 8, 2009

Winning in the Bagan Pinang state by-election is more important to the Barisan Nasional than the size of the majority obtained, Najib Abdul Razak said.

"There's no need to talk about winning big or small, as long as (we) win. Winning is the important thing," the prime minister told Malaysian journalists after his four-day visit to France.

He said that to win, the BN must work very hard and carry out an effective campaign to get the message across to the people.

He had been informed that the BN campaign was running smoothly and had received encouraging response but the effort must continue till the end, he said.

The Bagan Pinang seat fell vacant following the death of Azman Mohammad Noor of BN on Sept 4. BN's Isa Samad is facing Zulkefly Mohamad Omar of PAS in the polls on Sunday.

Constitutional amendment

On the amendment to the Umno constitution, Najib said it was aimed at promoting transparency and openness and reducing unhealthy practices like money politics in the party elections.

The final decision on the proposed amendment would be made at the Umno extraordinary general assembly next week, the Umno president said.

He said he was open to the proposal as Umno president and did not want to hide behind the quota system or stringent conditions.

"I feel it's important that Umno members have absolute right in the election of high posts, which is the spirit behind the constitutional amendments," he said.

On Makkal Sakti, Najib said he had explained to MIC that the support of the Indian community for BN was not confined to parties within the BN and there were parties outside the BN like the IPF which supported the coalition.

"These parties are also interested in supporting the BN so why don't we accept them even though they are not BN members," he said.

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/114470>