

PM dismisses snap polls and cabinet reshuffle as rumours
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KUALA LUMPUR - Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has denied reports that he would reshuffle the cabinet and call an early election, saying these are merely rumours and reports.

"It's normal," he said, "Malaysia is never short of rumours and reports."

"Elections are just rumours, the Cabinet reshuffle are rumours. They are just rumours."

Najib, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, was approached by reporters on Monday following reports that he might reshuffle the cabinet and call the general election soon.

On the move by the BN to amend its constitution to make the coalition inclusive and open to all, he said: "It has nothing to do with election."

"This is our reform, a political reform of the BN. Election is something else," he said.

According to Najib, the political reform was in line with the Government Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) which was launched to spur Malaysia to become a high-income nation by 2020.

On the amendment to the BN constitution to allow associate and affiliate memberships, which raised questions among component members over their candidacy in elections, Najib said BN would spell out their rights to contest.

He added that basically, a BN candidate must be a member of a BN component party.

However, in an extreme situation where none of the BN component parties wanted to contest a seat, "then the candidacy will be opened for consideration by the BN Supreme Council," he said.

He said that any decision to give a seat to a BN associate or affiliate member would be made after consulting the component parties and in the BN's spirit of consensus.

"We will not take away seats from BN component parties and give them to the direct associate or affiliate members. That is not right," he said. - Bernama