

Barisan "1 People, 1 Nation, 1 Vision" convention roundup  
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UPDATED 2 KUALA LUMPUR - The Barisan Nasional Convention 2010, which is set to discuss a host of topics, began this morning at the San Choon Hall of Wisma MCA here.

Below is a compilation of the messages delivered by Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Najib Abdul Razak in his speech.

Four diseases inflicting parties

Bernama reported that Najib has reminded component parties of the four diseases inflicting parties long in power - delusion, amnesia, inertia and arrogance - in his opening speech.

"I realise there are four ailments which usually strike political parties in power for a long time. The fact is that parties which are too powerful seldom conduct an introspection of their weaknesses," he said.

He added that delusion set in with the fantasy that the support from the people would prolong while amnesia caused one to lose sight of the original objective of one's struggle.

He said inertia set in when one was reluctant to undertake reforms and changes while arrogance reflected that one could not accept public reprimand.

He told leaders at the Barisan Nasional convention on Sunday that "the party's strength lies in its wisdom, sincerity, ability, vision and interest to establish a peaceful, stable and progressive nation."

He urged party leaders to defend Putrajaya against the opposition, "not for self interest but for that of the people".

Najib also claimed that the opposition were merely "traders of dreams" while the ruling coalition were "merchants of realities".

"Evidently, others can only be the traders of dreams while we are the merchant of realities which are pegged to the earth, founded on precise planning and structured implementation," he said.

He said BN had successfully transformed a low-income agricultural country into a moderately high-income modern industrialised nation.

In this context, he said, the BN had not only successfully managed a multiracial country but also developed the socio-economic sector and maintained security and public order.

BN no racist, opposition no guarantee

History showed that the BN had never fanned racial sentiments or made racism the basis of community relations management in the country, he said in the lengthy speech.

"In Malaysia, since independence, the government has never used racial and skin colour

issues as the reason to restrict voter registration," he said, adding that there was no racial bias in determining seats in a restaurant and public transportation or use of public toilets, as was practised in some other countries.

As such, he said, let there not be anyone who attempted to dismiss the role of the BN as a multiracial party which had championed inter-racial prosperity in Malaysia all this while.

"We are made up of various types of race-based parties, some of which represent various races. We are united and together represent the interests of all quarters. In the opposition, there is no guarantee that the voice of the minority can reach the discussion stage at the highest leadership level, simply because they are not adequately represented," he said.

Najib said the people should be proud of the fact that Malaysia was the only country in the world which allowed national type schools which retained the mother tongue as the medium of instruction.

Touching on the political transformation programme, the prime minister outlined one of the historic changes in the BN since its formation -- its agreement to establish four types of new direct membership -- associate, affiliate, friends of BN and Rakan Muda Club of BN.

"We will continue to strive to ensure that the BN direct membership will become a reality and heap benefits on the party and the people," he said.

Pakatan Rakyat foes 'anti-national'

The leadership of the opposition parties are actually struggling to achieve certain objectives to gain power, and are bound to resolving their personal problems to the extent that they are prepared to deceive the people, Najib said.

Based on this reality, the people and leaders of Barisan Nasional (BN) must be wary because the opposition leaders were prepared to do anything to achieve their objectives including tarnishing Malaysia's image abroad, he said.

"Be wary all, beware all, they are very dangerous. They are willing to sell just about anything, including discrediting Malaysia's name abroad.

"I would like to explain here that they are anti-national. We must fight them to the end and make sure that this country will not be destroyed by their evil activities," the news website quoted Najib's opening speech.

It was reported that the BN chairman has also claimed that the party was attempting to imitate Umno, charging that this proved that they recognised the honesty of the ruling party's struggles.

"We understand that perhaps they are following the saying in English that 'imitation is the best form of flattery'," Najib said.

"It is very obvious, whenever we make political changes and reforms which are internal in nature, it scares them to the extent that they become chaotic and want to copy.

"The lesson here is that when other people want to copy, certainly what we are doing is correct," he added.

Najib: PR appears united but with different dreams

Najib said the names for the opposition pact such as 'Gagasan Rakyat', 'Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah', 'Barisan Alternatif' and 'Pakatan Rakyat', or any others, were merely an attempt by the opposition to unite but this might not last long as each of them were insincere or 'double-faced'.

He said that based on history, it was clear that the cooperation would not last because the objectives of the opposition parties were merely to cheat and divert the people's thinking.

"Between the DAP and PAS, for example, they can only sleep on the same bed but have different dreams. They appear to be united, purely because there is a third person.

"What I mean is that if there was the Parti Melayu Semangat 46 previously, today that role has been taken over by Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR)," he said.

Semangat 46, the Umno splinter party, had previously cooperated with PAS and DAP in two general elections in the 1990's before its leader dissolved the party in 1997 to rejoin Umno.

Meanwhile, Najib criticised the opposition parties that proudly claimed they were a democratic party representing all the races but in actual fact, they were very different from the BN.

"Just look at the PKR (Parti Keadilan Rakyat), from their line-up of seven top leadership, only one represents the Chinese. Meanwhile, the Indians who represent their second largest membership with more than 20 per cent of the total, do not have even one representative at the top party level," he said.

Najib says the PKR 'desperate'

PM said, "it is most appropriate if we call the PKR as 'Parti Keluar Ramai-ramai' (En Masse Resignation Party)," referring to several key leaders who had left the PKR including its vice-president, secretary-general, Youth chief, Youth vice-head, information chief, state chairmen, and division chiefs.

He said the PKR had also become desperate to gain the people's sympathy to the extent that its president, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail had suggested that PKR de facto leader, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was 'God-sent'.

"Is this a new 'ijtihad' or another form of deviationist teachings. We have had enough of this deviationist drama!" he added.

In addition, Najib was also confused that PAS, which claimed that it was a political party based on Islamic teachings, was willing to cooperate with other groups of leaders who were lying, forgers of documents, traitors to their race and country.

Biggest lie in country's political history

The prime minister also reminded the people to realise and understand that the opposition parties were insincere, most opportunistic and full of hypocrisy.

He said the whole country certainly remembered the ambition and lies of the opposition party to form the federal government on Sept 16 last year which

eventually became the biggest lie in the country's political history.

"We know that they very much desire to have an office in Putrajaya, to live in Seri Perdana. That is why they are willing to do anything, merely to wrest power and from time to time behave rudely and greedily," her said.

Najib, wearing the blue BN shirt, arrived at 8.55 am and was welcomed with the traditional music of the various races.

Also present at the event were Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy BN Chairman Muhyiddin Yassin and the leaders of all the BN component parties. Najib was accorded a standing ovation, with delegates waving small BN flags, as he entered the San Choon Hall.

Some of the banners in the hall and at its entrance carried the words "BN, People First, 1Malaysia Towards Progress", "1Malaysia Towards Unity" and "1Malaysia Towards Religious Harmony".

The convention began with the reading of the "doa" (prayers). This was followed by the singing of the national anthem "NegaraKu" and the BN song.

BN Secretary-General Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor then made his welcome speech and Najib began to deliver his keynote address.

The convention, which carries the theme "1People, 1Nation, 1Vision", will discuss, among other things, the 1Malaysia concept, the socio-economic situation, security, education, religion and the government delivery system.

The last BN convention was held in 2001.

Source: Bernama

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