

Anwar and Kit Siang: PM feels 'desperate', guilty of 'political diseases'
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KUALA LUMPUR- Pakatan Rakyat (PR) leaders have counter-attacked at the speech made by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak at the Barisan Nasional Convention 2010 on Sunday.

DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang said Monday that the Prime Minister has degraded the political discourse with his "vicious attacks on Pakatan Rakyat as 'anti-national', 'evil', 'despicable', 'very dangerous'".

He warned that such attacks "can only boomerang on him (Najib) and Barisan Nasional leaders".

In addition, Lim challenged Najib to a live television debate between BN and Pakatan leaders on who is really "anti-national", "evil", "despicable" and "very dangerous".

Najib feeling desperate and under siege, says Anwar

Similarly, Anwar Ibrahim slammed on Najib's insults against the opposition, saying it only showed that the prime minister was feeling "desperate" and "under siege".

He said Najib, as a prime minister, had used "the police, the judiciary and the entire media at his disposal to launch severe personal attacks against me (Anwar) and PR leaders".

"We even submit ourselves to the Constitution. All three parties in PR signed a declaration, committing ourselves to constitutional guarantees.

"We disagree with Umno's cronyism and corruption, and although I am a Malay myself, I detest the idea of using the race card to appeal to the popular Malays while making the poor workers, the rubber tappers, feel that they are 'tuan'. And yet, the few very rich Malays squander away and amass wealth by the billions," he was quoted as saying Monday by The Malaysian Insider.

Anwar pointed out that it was ironic that Najib referred to the father-and-son teams of DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang and party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and DAP chairman Karpal Singh and MP Gobind Singh as "two-family dynasty and hegemony".

He claimed that the Najib himself was able to rise to power mainly due to his father's influential role as the country's second Prime Minister, who is Abdul Razak Hussein.

Najib being guilty of 'political diseases', says Kit Siang

Lim has also said in the statement issued Monday that Najib was guilty of three of the four "political diseases" which the BN chairman himself had warned on Sunday would crush the ruling coalition - delusion, amnesia and arrogance.

The Ipoh Timur MP said: "Najib was guilty of delusion when he spoke of Barisan Nasional's "manifest destiny" to "bring this great nation, Malaysia, to its fullest potential" when Malaysia had been losing out to one country after another in economic development and progress in the past five decades.

"Najib was guilty of amnesia when he so easily forgot the reasons why Barisan Nasional suffered its worst electoral defeat in the 2008 general elections, losing five state governments and parliamentary two-thirds majority," he added.

Lastly, Lim said the PM was guilty of arrogance for presenting "the next general elections battle as one between "good vs evil", "loyalty vs treachery" and "patriotism vs anti-national".

Lim said Najib has used such dichotomies, "as if corruption, rent-seeking, abuses of power and human right violations are the by-words for good, loyalty and patriotism while commitment to uphold and restore constitutional and political integrity, justice, rule of law and human rights represent evil, treachery and being "anti-national."

The DAP parliamentary leader said if Najib wanted his 1Malaysia concept to be taken seriously, he should be mindful of Dr. Samuel Johnson's dictum "Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels".

Najib should also not set the bad example of doubting the sincerity, bona fide or worse the patriotism of political adversaries, Lim added.

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