

Talk of snap poll grows louder after PM-MPs meeting
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PETALING JAYA – The unprecedented marathon meeting between Barisan Nasional MPs and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has triggered talk of a possible snap general election.

Many MPs felt that the meeting was geared towards early preparations for the election, although Najib stressed the initiative was part of a long-term political transformation process undertaken by Barisan.

The MPs who attended the meeting said the manner in which it was conducted and the “two-way traffic” of sharing information between them and Najib indicated that the Prime Minister wanted to make sure that problems faced by the people were addressed speedily to shore up people’s trust and support for Barisan.

Keningau MP Joseph Pairin Kitingan said everyone knew that the meeting was part of preparations for an early election.

“The Prime Minister is considering requests for programmes that benefit each constituency,” he said after the meeting.

Pulai MP Nur Jazlan Mohamed said Najib had also directed his officers to monitor developments in all areas.

“He is gathering information to make sure that the information from us tallies with his. He shared his information with us, and he also listened to our opinion.

“He wants to resolve all issues before the election. Maybe he will call for a snap general election,” he said.

An MP said many elected representatives left happy because Najib was willing to meet them personally.

Najib had given the MPs a week’s notice to prepare reports about their constituencies relating to development, their performance and support for Barisan in their respective constituencies.

The MPs were also asked about strategies to ensure victory in their respective constituencies and gauge support for Barisan and Pakatan Rakyat, apart from providing the status on fence-sitters.

It is learnt that the Prime Minister had already received detailed reports and statistics on all the constituencies from 14 different agencies including Kemas, Biro Tata Negara and military intelligence.

Sarawak’s Batang Lupar MP Rohani Abdul Karim said the initiative was a good start, especially since the Sarawak state election was around the corner.

Kuala Kangsar MP Rafidah Aziz said irrespective of whether the general election would be

held sooner or later, Barisan's machinery was ready for it.

"We are prepared at all times, as if the election will be held next week," said the former Wanita Umno chief.

Some MPs, however, said Najib did not give any indication on when the polls would be held.

Rembau MP Khairy Jamaluddin said there were no hints of an early general election during his meeting with Najib.

"The Prime Minister has detailed information of issues and progress in each constituency. There is no room for anyone to give false information," he said.

Hulu Selangor MP P. Kamalanathan and Tanjung Malim MP Ong Ka Chuan also believed the meeting did not indicate that the general election would be called early.

"I think the Prime Minister wants to see if the MPs are genuinely delivering service to the people," said Ong. — The Star

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