

**Najib: The Best Publicist For Bersih**  
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is perhaps not aware but he is the best publicist for Bersih and Malaysia's need for electoral reform, good governance and democracy.

Ever since he became Malaysia's sixth PM by default, Najib has conducted business, ie run the country, like a child would protect his precious bag of sweets. He is defensive, controlling and refuses to share.

The only difference is that the nation, of which he is only a temporary custodian, does not belong to him alone. Malaysia and its riches, whether they are in the form of its people or natural resources, are for the benefit of all, not just the privileged few in Umno/BN.

Najib also acts like a bully, and if no one will listen to him, he issues threats and ultimatums or else acts like a street thug who gets other members of the gang to beat those who will not obey the leader.

Translate this into real life and there are various examples of the class bully act.

Perakians will never forget the despicable tactics employed by Najib to oust the Opposition from governing Perak. The MPs dubbed 'the Frogs', who in a flash lost all credibility and integrity, may have smiled in photoshoots with Najib, all looking like victors in a sporting contest. Perhaps Najib should remember the saying, 'elephants never forget'.

In the Sibu by-election, Najib was recorded on video telling people that RM5 million would be made available to the community, only if BN triumphed in the election. This is taxpayer's money he is refusing to make available for development, not his own money.

At the 65th United Nations General Assembly, Najib proudly told the whole world that 'the moderates' should 'reclaim the agenda for peace and pragmatism'. At home, Malaysian citizens were baffled with his rhetoric because Malay extremists were fomenting trouble and not being censored at all.

In an attempt to attract Malay votes and appeal to the Malay heartland as the savior of the Tanah Melayu, Najib did nothing to stop the subjugation of people of other faiths: The destruction of temples. The cow-head incident. The attempt to stop Christians from using the word Allah. The confiscation of over 30,000 Malay-language bibles. The so-called plot by Christians to usurp Islam as the nation's official religion.

Najib realises that his image is dented and may have been advised to improve his public appeal. However, he does appear desperate when he interrupted Pope Benedict's holiday for an audience.

Najib said, "He made an exception to meet with me. (sic). I met with Pope Benedict because I wanted to show that we are an inclusive government."

But all this effort to restore Najib's image as an 'inclusive' PM is wasted, when on his return, Najib addressed a gathering on 22 July at Sepang and said: "We wish to tell our friends, the Malaysian Christians ... that if they respect us, we will also respect them." Very reminiscent of the "You help me, I help you" incident.

Perhaps, Najib needs to know some basic fundamentals. Respect is earned and is not a 'tit-for-tat' ploy.

Najib has, since he was made PM, spent an inordinate amount of time abroad rather than deal with problems at home. He simply refuses to engage with the rakyat and instead of doing the right thing, surrounds himself with people who we see and know are corrupt and ineffective, like Isa Samad whom he has appointed to be in charge of billions in Felda.

Sadly, Najib can no longer interact with the rakyat. He even views Bersih with its eight point demand as a personal threat. This fear has forced Najib and his gang into a corner.

Ordinary folk who care about the country are locked up. The colour yellow is banned. Others have false accusations hurled at them, like the Parti Socialis Malaysia (PSM) 6 who were allegedly arrested for being a threat to national security and for wanting to overthrow the King.

Under Najib's rule, the country has become obsessed with spin and image. As PM, he has failed to show genuine leadership. Soundbites, sodomy trials and sex videos dominate our news. Many wonder when he will improve the state of the economy, restore investor confidence and upgrade the lives of Malaysians.

Najib lacks any admirable qualities. All the spin which APCO and Najib's spin doctors generate, coupled with visits to world figures, is a distraction. He distracts the world with his empty rhetoric. We at home know that his words mean nothing. Banana republics may be impressed. The first world is only interested in his daft ability to buy their obsolete weapons and arms.

When Najib blasted the Opposition's 100-days reform plan as "irresponsible" and chided them for saying that Malaysia would be bankrupt like Greece, he conveniently forgot that months earlier, his own administration had alerted Malaysians that the country would be bankrupt by 2019 if prices on consumer essentials remained low and subsidies were not cut.

Malaysians are aware that Najib is trying to distract us from the shocking state of the country's finances, the cheating that goes on in elections, the economic mess, Najib's poor governance, the bickering in Umno, the extravagant politicians, corrupt officials, a bloated and inept civil-service, our lack of confidence in his administration and government institutions and of course, Najib's own fears about the Arab spring.

If the truth be known, Najib is clueless about resolving all these issues which now appear to be snowballing out of control.

He thinks that by locking people up, calling organisations 'illegal', banning certain things and deporting various foreigners, like the French lawyer William Bourdon, all these problems will go away. Perhaps, he hopes we will forget.

No other Prime Minister in living memory has a wife whose political machinations and lavish spending has attracted as much public ridicule and vilification as his own.

Najib is on dangerous territory for there are others eagerly waiting to make their move and stab him in the back to acquire the crown. He is losing the plot and all the wrong moves he has made, have given much desired publicity to Bersih and its aims.

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