

Najib: It's a frustrated opposition

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PEKAN: Opposition parties are now expected to team up in campaigning for the Machap and Ijok by-elections.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also the Barisan Nasional deputy president, said such a change in strategy could be due to the opposition's frustration in winning the people's support.

He said DAP, which was mostly campaigning on its own in Machap, was finding it tough to deliver its campaign message without the help of its opposition allies.

Najib was nonetheless confident that the formation of any opposition pact would not make headway as it would be "a poor carbon copy" of that of the BN.

"They have been talking about the pact for a long time but what they had come out with was never as strong as what we have in BN," Najib said after launching a community programme by Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) at the mosque in Kampung Nenasi Pantai near here yesterday.

"We tried to copy us but were too suspicious of each other due to their conflicting political aims."

He said BN is almost sure of improving its winning majority in Machap and expects the positive trend to continue in Ijok.



"All indications point to a strong support for BN from voters of all races.

"The opposition simply does not have any local issue to exploit and instead has to rely mostly on vague arguments against the government."

Najib also expressed hope that employers in Machap would allow their workers to take time off from work to cast their votes on April 12.

"I would also like to appeal to voters who live outside the district to return and cast their votes."

Earlier at the function, Najib praised PNB for fulfilling its corporate social responsibility by setting up a multimedia community centre at the mosque for the use of villagers in the area.

Also present at the function were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, PNB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid as well as PNB president and chief executive officer Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman.

The centre has 15 personal computers, a printer and other multimedia accessories.