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Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and other BN leaders celebrating the unveiling of the Barisan Nasional charter yesterday.

## 'This shows we are ready for change'

KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional Convention was not specifically geared towards the general election, BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

Instead, the convention is aimed at strengthening the coalition and its 13 component parties by having a political transformation.

"I know the press is obsessed with the general election but we want this as a process to strengthen BN continuously... it's not just directed towards the general election but it's an ongoing process.

"Elections can be held any time, it's up to us to decide when it can be done," he said after the convention yesterday.

Najib said the convention had successfully raised the spirits of the component party members as well as given a clear direction on what they should do in Terms of political transformation.

"It is a good attendance and shows that BN is

ready for change and this raises the confidence of the people (in BN)."

Among the points he stressed in his keynote address was that as a political party in power for long, leaders should not have delusions, amnesia, arrogance and inertia.

"The bottom line is, we must take action based on people first.

"We must put the needs of the people first so that we can get the support of the rakyat for BN."

On the content of the debates, Najib said it mostly was based on political transformation where the heads of the 14 component parties gave their views on what needed to be done or avoided.

Questioned on MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's speech which called on Umno not to make any important national decision at its supreme council meetings or annual general assemblies, Najib said everyone had to be

sensitive to the feelings of all component parties.

"We understand and it works both ways. We have to be sensitive about the feelings of all component parties, it doesn't mean Umno alone but it applies to all.

"We want BN to be strong and be the only viable coalition.

"The other side is a poor substitute," he said.

On the warning by the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of an imminent water crisis if the stand-off between the Federal and Selangor governments over an inter-state raw water transfer project was not resolved soon, Najib said: "The problem with the state is it has a very different position on the water problem.

"Because it's a serious problem, we should set aside party politics and look at the request of the people more than anything else."