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BN copying Pakatan policies

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KUALA LUMPUR: PAS Research Centre director Dzulkefly Ahmad has pointed out that Barisan Nasional (BN) under the leadership of Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak was copying Pakatan Rakyat's promised policies in its recent announcement of cheaper cars and the proposal to buy back highway concessionaire PLUS.

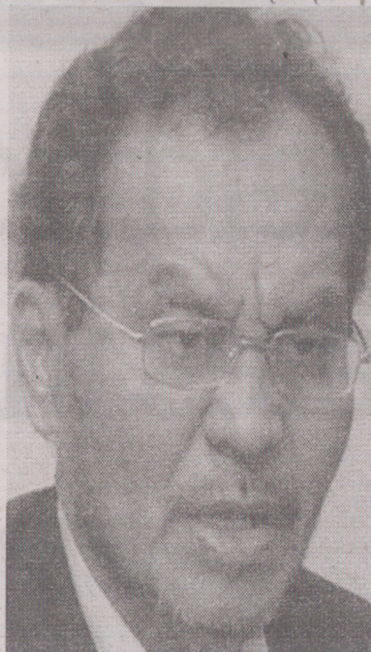
Dzukefly said Najib had taken a long time to call for parliamentary dissolution and used what little time was available to him by taking an example from Pakatan's manifesto.

"Najib has committed the 'crime' of plagiarism for a few times already in the past," Dzulkefly said in a writing Apr 3.

He said BN leaders including Umno youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin was vocal against any vehicle tax reduction after Pakatan made its proposal known and that many commented that the country would go bankrupt.

But he pointed out that the Najib administration through its institutions had agreed to reduce vehicle tax by 20 percent in stages over five years.

Dzulkefly however pointed out that while BN under Najib might "cut and paste" Pakatan's manifesto in the days leading to polling day, it would not be able to plagiarise Pakatan's integrity, nor could it address the continued corruption and financial leakages



Dzulkefly Ahmad

in its folds.

"Najib will not be able to plagiarize Pakatan Rakyat's success because it relates to leadership and self-worth," he said.

Justified

He said Pakatan's offers have always been justified with detailed explanations on their feasibility, but have been attacked by Umno and BN leaders as policies which could lead to 'national bankruptcy'.

"Whether it is abolition of tolls, reduction of tax on new cars, free education, cheaper fuel, water and power tariffs, affordable housing, healthcare, minimum wage or

welfare programmes for farmers, fishermen and housewives, or start-up courses for school leavers unable to continue tertiary education, we have done our analysis on their costs and financial sources," he stressed.

Dzulkefly predicted that free tertiary education, one of Pakatan's popular offers, would be Najib's next target.

He said in that event it would be better for Najib to give Pakatan the responsibility to rule even only for a term.

"Umno-BN should undergo an intensive and holistic treatment before it can ever be returned to power, just in case Pakatan Rakyat fails," he said.- ES