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PM: No forced conversion

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Sabahans told to lodge complaint on such activities

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KOTA KINABALU: The Barisan Nasional Government does not have a policy of forced conversion to Islam, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

If such activities were being carried out, he said it could be the work of individuals.

He told Sabahans they should lodge a complaint with the state government so appropriate action could be taken.

"In Islam, its principles state 'to you your religion and to me my religion' - there is no compulsion and we cannot force it," he said when opening the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) triennial congress here yesterday.

Najib said this in response to PBRS president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup's policy speech which highlighted the alleged conversion of non-Muslim natives into Islam through force or trickery in Sabah, which went against the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion.

"If someone wants to convert, that is fine," said Najib.



To a good start: Najib sounding the gong to open the PBRS triennial congress at a hotel in Kota Kinabalu. Looking on is Musa (left) and Kurup (right). — Bernama.

"But I give my guarantee - this is not our policy.

"If there are such cases happening, lodge a complaint and ask Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman to look into it."

On the migrant problem in Sabah, Najib said the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the matter was completed.

"You (Sabah) have to come back to me with your solutions," he added.

As for the possible erosion of non-Muslim bumiputra support for

Barisan, Najib said the Opposition had spread untruths on social media about the coalition and that had affected their overall performance.

"They told all sorts of lies to the people," he said, adding that former Perak menteri besar Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin had recently apologised in court for defaming him.

Later, Kurup said Najib's assurance that the Government was not behind any forced conversion was "comforting".

He said there had been instances where certain individuals went to various areas and allegedly converted non-Muslim natives to Islam.

"We have heard of cases in Pitas, Papar and also in my constituency Pensiangan.

"We are not against conversion if it is done on a free will," he stressed.

Kurup said he hoped the Sabah government would put in place legislation to ensure that the use of the word Allah by Christians be allowed in the state as currently it was not allowed in peninsula Malaysia.