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PM presents transparent political funding plan

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INTEGRITY: Move to address urgent need to regulate political financing, says Najib

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THE prime minister yesterday announced the establishment of a National Consultative Committee on Political Funding (JKNMPP) to draw up a political funding action plan of integrity that is comprehensive and inclusive.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said JKNMPP would come up with an action plan for political funding with integrity through necessary reforms and improvement of the law within one year and implement it before the 14th General Election.

He said at present, there were no regulations on political funding that could determine whether it was right or wrong, although there were several regulations on election expenditure.

"It is hoped that this plan will boost confidence, not only among political party members, but also the people at large and the future generation," he said here yesterday.

Najib said JKNMPP would be chaired by Minister in the Prime

Minister's Department Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan while Datuk Seri Idris Jala would be the deputy chairman.

The Malaysian Institute of Integrity (IIM) would act as the JKNMPP Centre for Reference and Consultation, assisted by a secretariat with allocation provided by the Integrity and Governance Division (BITU) of the Prime Minister's Department.

He said the JKNMPP would determine the consultative process at all levels and consider views from all parties.

The JKNMPP would comprise members from political parties, community leaders, academicians, thinkers, representatives of related government agencies, private sector and civil society organisations, and interested groups, including the younger generation, he said.

"The JKNMPP will consider all aspects of political funding regulations, including changes of institutions, monitoring and enforcement of the laws and new regulations.

"This matter had been raised by me and several other parties since 2009, but did not receive any response.

"I hope everyone will accept this



SPREADING RAYA CHEER

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, distributing 'duit raya' to children at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri event with some 2,500 Administrative and Diplomatic Service (PTD) officers at Menara Seri Wilayah in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

because it is not a political issue but one of integrity.

"This is for the good of the country as we are looking at establishing a serious benchmark for funding that is accepted.

"There is an urgent need to regulate political financing to ensure accountability and transparency to create best political practices."

When asked why the political funding plan was not accepted in 2009, Najib said it was a question that should be posed to the opposition.

"Since they (the opposition) have been talking about this issue, they should walk the talk."

He said the initiative was also part of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and National Key Result Areas (NKRA) to create governance and a check and balance mechanism.

Najib said JKNMPP would consider all aspects, including changes in institutions, monitoring and enforcement of laws and new regulations.

"JKNMPP will be an adviser to the

government on political financing integrity. The committee will provide the forum for its members to present their ideas to ensure a political funding mechanism and model with integrity.

"The committee will also supervise efforts for consultative dialogues with every strata of society throughout the country."

Meanwhile, Bernama quoted Low as saying that the committee was prepared to begin its task.

"We already laid the groundwork about two to three weeks ago."