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| Newspaper | NEW STRAITS TIMES |
| Date      | 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 |

# Najib: BN panel to look into redelineation proposal

NST- 24/9/2016

**ELECTORAL BORDERS:** 'EC will get feedback after component parties consolidate views'

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**B**ARISAN Nasional has set up a special committee to look into the Election Commission's (EC) proposed redelineation of electoral borders, said BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said the coalition would submit its feedback on the redelineation exercise to the EC once it had gathered and streamlined the views of component parties.

"BN component parties, including Umno, have different views on the EC's preliminary proposal because there are numerous effects and implications that have to be considered.

"We will consolidate our views

through a committee that will be chaired by the BN secretary-general (Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor)," he said after chairing a BN Supreme Council meeting here yesterday.

He said the committee, to comprise the secretaries-general of component parties, would produce a detailed feedback on the EC's proposal.

"Hopefully, we will come to a decision that is fair to all parties."

Present were Tengku Adnan, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Adenan Satem, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup and MyPPP president Tan Sri M. Kayveas.

The BN Supreme Council meeting was held to allow component parties

to table their initial views on the EC's redelineation proposal.

Najib made it clear that the EC must gather feedback from all quarters before seeking approval for its proposal.

"There must be full public engagement with all parties, including the opposition. Opposition parties have a right to give their views," he said, adding that the committee set up by BN would hold a meeting soon.

"We will adhere to the EC's timeframe and present our views before the deadline. Hence, it is untrue that Umno has accepted (the proposal). There are many opinions in Umno (regarding the redelineation).

"This is a preliminary proposal and has not been finalised. We can evaluate the proposal only after the engagement process.

"Only then can we decide if the redelineation is fair (to all parties) or otherwise."

The EC has said those who objected to the proposed changes could submit their complaints within a month of the notice's gazette-ment.

Only parties allowed by the Constitution are permitted to make objections, namely state governments, local authorities in constituencies partly or wholly involved in the exercise, or a group of 100 or more registered voters, whose names are listed in the electoral roll in the constituencies involved.

The notice on the EC's recommendations, along with the draft plan of the constituencies, will be displayed for a month, starting Sept 15, in the affected areas.

The EC has said any rejection of the recommendations would have to be presented in writing and addressed to the respective state EC directors. **Additional reporting by Adrian Lai**