

We Want A Strong Government, Says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno want to form a strong government in the next general election.

"Whatever constitutes the definition of a strong government, this is what we want. A two-thirds (majority) is something which is ideal but what is important is a strong government," he said at a news conference at the end of the 2011 Umno General Assembly, here.

He was responding to a question whether he would be happy with a two-thirds majority or a simple majority for the BN in the election.

He added that a strong government could be formed from a working majority or a two-thirds majority.

Najib, who is Umno president, also said that the BN was capable of winning the four opposition-ruled states in the coming election but said that he would not want to underrate the opposition.

He added that it would be a mistake to underrate the opposition.

"When we want to take over a state, we need preparations and strategies which are far greater than usual," he said.

When asked whether he would want to announce that the assembly this year was the last before the next general election, as was speculated by many, he said, "If I do that, that would mean I'm giving the cue."

Preparations for the national polls would continue, he said, adding that BN and Umno leaders would carry on meeting the people throughout the country.

"It's an ongoing process. We are going to make rounds, more rounds and several more; for how many more, I won't know," he said.

On the BN convention in Perak next month, he said, nearly all the state had held similar conventions and that the next convention could be held in Umno's name.

To a question, Najib said, the BN had yet to decide whether to field candidates in areas contested by Independent Consensus members.

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