

Guan Eng: Najib's nod to cyber army points to dirty polls
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 — The prime minister's endorsement of pro-Barisan Nasional (BN) online users is proof the ruling coalition will not hesitate to use underhanded means to win the next election, Lim Guan Eng says.

The DAP secretary-general said Datuk Seri Najib Razak's unconditional support for such users showed that BN not only condoned but encouraged the "malicious falsehoods" made online against Pakatan Rakyat (PR) leaders and their families.

Last month, Lim's (picture) teenage son became the target of attacks by pro-Umno bloggers who accused the 15-year-old of molesting a schoolmate before trying to escape punishment by using his father's name.

The DAP later said the picture of the purported victim used by the bloggers was of 21-year-old chess grandmaster Anya Sun Corke, who has denied ever meeting either Lim or his son.

"Now, with Najib's proud statement officially recognising pro-BN cyber troopers as part of BN's cyber army, is he not making a statement of admission that the BN is involved in the ongoing dirty tricks campaign to cheat and lie their way to win the next general election?"

"Is this the kind of derogatory attacks that we can expect from the BN 'cyber army'?" Without a doubt, Najib's new army of cyber troopers with a history of dirty tricks is proof that the 13th General Election will be the dirtiest election yet," Lim said in a statement today.

Yesterday, Najib voiced his unconditional support for pro-BN bloggers and social media users, christening them the ruling coalition's "new army".

He pointed out that the online world was the new battlefield between BN and PR, and said pro-government bloggers need to combat the opposition's "lies and half-truths" online.

Social media has become increasingly important politically, with 11.3 million Malaysians on Facebook as of the middle of this year, a figure that continues to grow.

A survey by global information and analytics provider Nielsen last month found that Malaysians spend an average of 20 hours online each week.

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