

Najib sounds election war drums, promises to uphold Malay agenda
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By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 – In what is expected to be his final parting words to Umno delegates before polls are called, Datuk Seri Najib Razak reaffirmed tonight his commitment to upholding the Malay agenda, denying it was ever sidelined under his 1 Malaysia platform.

“Who says we do not uphold the Malay or Bumiputera agenda?”

“When I started 1 Malaysia, I did not say – let’s neglect the Malay agenda,” Najib (picture) thundered to thousands of delegates at the Dewan Merdeka hall at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He however stressed on the importance of earning support from all ethnic groups, saying “Umno’s future depends” on it.

Najib also trumpeted his administration’s achievements, outlining his transformation initiatives aimed at helping Malaysia achieve high-income nation status.

“To achieve developed nation status, we have our Economic Transformation Programme... we estimate RM1.3 trillion worth of investments in 10 years.

“We will ensure economic growth of five to six per cent annually, we have identified projects to help us achieve high-income status.

“And insyaallah, with these implementations, even when other economies like the US appear uncertain, ours remains stable,” he said.

In his fiery speech, the prime minister also urged his troops to ready themselves for what he said would be “the most critical” elections to date, reiterating that it would be a “tragedy” should Pakatan Rakyat (PR) come to power.

“Ayuh, ayuh, ayuh (come, come, come) to the battlefield. Insyaallah, victory will be ours!” he said.

He took pains to beat dents into the federal opposition’s armour, claiming its leaders only know to “crow here and there, lie here and there, cheat here and there, play here and there.”

“Umno (however) has again proven that in whatever situation... they (Malaysians) can put their trust in us to lead the nation.

“They (the opposition) are good at crowing... macam ayam tapi telur, hanya satu. Kadang-kadang, tak bertelur,” he said.

(Translation: Like a chicken that only lays one egg. Sometimes, it lays nothing)

“The biggest lie in the history of Malaysia, what was it? September 16,” he said to jeers from the crowd.

Najib said during the famous "September 16" takeover claim by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, "not one of our MPs crossed over (to the opposition)" despite receiving offers.

He also made direct references to Anwar's ongoing sodomy trial and the latter's allegation that the case was masterminded by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

"It has nothing to do with us. Who hired Saiful (Bukhari Azlan)? The rest is dot, dot, dot," Najib said, drawing laughter from delegates.

He then claimed that "Anwar's secrets lie with DAP", pointing to how the party's chairman Karpal Singh is currently defending Anwar in the sodomy trial. He explained this was why the opposition party has grown more influential than its partners in PR.

Najib is said to need a marked improvement from the last polls to retain his position and only a return of Barisan Nasional's customary two-thirds majority of Parliament can guarantee he remains in office.

BN ceded 82 federal seats and five state governments to the opposition in the landmark March 2008 election.

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