

Najib: Don't doubt our sincerity
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KUALA LUMPUR (Aug 21, 2011): Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak today stressed that the Barisan Nasional ruling coalition is committed towards electoral reforms and parties should not doubt its commitment towards it.

He was referring to the statement by the coalition for electoral reforms, Bersih 2.0 which said the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on Electoral Reforms announced recently would be pointless if Najib went ahead with the general election without waiting for the committee to complete its task.

Najib refuted the statement, saying the decision to call for a general election is the prerogative of the ruling government.

"I think they are wrong. We are committed to electoral reforms. What I'm saying is that election date is our prerogative but we are committed towards electoral reforms. Don't doubt our sincerity," he said after launching the Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia at the Pusat Komersial Komuniti Bandar Tun Razak.

Najib had reportedly said the general election can be held at anytime and is not bound by the works of the PSC.

He said the government, however, would strive to implement recommendations made by the committee before the coming elections.

Today, Najib said the reforms that will be discussed in the PSC only proves the government's sincerity towards reform.

"I hope our initiative to have PSC shows our sincerity. It does not mean that we believe there is rigging in the present system. It means we want to make it (electoral system) even better; don't doubt our sincerity," he said.

The PSC will comprise MPs - five from BN, three from Opposition, an independent, and will be chaired by a Cabinet minister.

The electoral reform committee is to put to rest any suspicion of manipulation of the election roll.

Earlier, Najib said a second Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia branch would be opened before Hari Raya, this time in Pantai Dalam.

He said this is part of the government's initiative to combat the global rising cost of food to ease the burden of the rakyat.

"I find this concept (of Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia) is very profitable for the rakyat because the prices here are way cheaper than normal shops," said Najib.

The first Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia is located at the Kelana Jaya LRT station.

The Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia is managed by Mydin Mohamed Holding and retails 250 grocery

items under the brand name "Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia" at lower prices.

In a statement, Mydin said 25 new Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia outlets will be opened before the end of the year and 60 more outlets will be established by next year.

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