

Credit BN, not Pakatan for law reforms, says Najib
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SHAH ALAM, Sept 17 — No one else should take credit for the law reforms mooted by Barisan Nasional (BN) two days ago which saw the repeal of the Internal Security Act (ISA) and other restrictive laws, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

In apparent reference to Pakatan Rakyat (PR) claims that BN had lifted the idea from the opposition's Buku Jingga manifesto, the prime minister said the decision to scrap the ISA was part of his promise to amend the controversial law when he took office in 2009.

"These are not the fruits of their struggle. This was a decision made by the Barisan Nasional government because we listened to Malaysians who want this change," Najib (picture) told some 600 BN supporters at Universiti Teknologi Mara here.

He said that the law reforms would put Malaysia on the right track to becoming a more open and progressive democracy while ensuring harmony.

On Thursday night, the prime minister announced the repeal of the ISA and the three Emergency Declarations when both the Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat have their next sitting.

He said new laws will be enacted to protect the peace, harmony and security of the country.

He also announced that the government will do away with annual printing and publishing permits with permits that can be cancelled if regulations are flouted.

PR has claimed credit for the bold move, which it said was the result of sustained opposition pressure.

Najib stressed today the need for a stable government and urged the mainly Indian crowd to throw their support behind the ruling coalition to ensure the country's future prosperity.

"If politics in our country is in a state of flux... and we do not have political stability, it will affect the country badly," he said, adding that any lack of stability would put off foreign investors.

He said if Malaysians could show strong support for the government, the effect on the economy will be tremendous and jobs would be guaranteed.

Najib added that BN would look after the people's welfare, and promised that the ruling coalition will continue to address the problems faced by the Indian community.

He later received some 7,000 BN membership forms from former Selangor PR members.

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