

Najib: Pakatan in Putrajaya would be a 'nightmare'
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak today targetted Pakatan Rakyat (PR) in the latest salvo ahead of an expected general election, saying the pact's inability to co-operate now forestalled any chances of it becoming a successful administration.

The prime minister said that unlike PR, the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) had a consistent track record in running the country.

Najib went on to accuse PR of lacking a proper framework for running the government, saying the pact was only practiced at preaching "lofty ideals" that the opposition coalition itself did not adhere to.

"Can you trust the opposition? Or Barisan Nasional? I cannot promise you the moon, but I will promise you Malaysia will continue to prosper under BN," Najib said during his speech at the MCA annual general assembly here.

The BN chairman said that although three years have passed since Election 2008, PR had yet to flesh out a shadow Cabinet.

"What post are they going to allocate (Datuk Seri) Abdul Hadi? Minister of law? Head of religious affairs? What about Mat Sabu (Mohamed Sabu)? What about the veteran politician Lim Kit Siang? Is he going to be prime minister, or deputy prime minister?" said Najib to the MCA delegation, who jeered as the opposition leaders' names were mentioned.

Najib added that it would be a "nightmare scenario" if PR assumed federal power, and questioned who would be PM if BN were to be ousted from the seat of power.

PR has declared that Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is its prime minister-designate. Anwar is seen as a direct rival to Najib and has accused the prime minister of a conspiracy to end his political career.

Today, Najib called PR out for hypocrisy, noting that it banned some media organisations from covering its events even though the coalition preached frequently of free speech and democracy.

"Anwar himself talks about democracy, yet he is not an elected president of his own party. I am an elected president.

"What kind party is this (PKR) when the wife is president, and daughter vice-president? Family based," continued Najib.

The prime minister concluded by saying that BN was "realist" in its nature and policies, unlike the populist approach adopted by PR in its "Buku Jingga" manifesto.

The current administration's mandate does not expire until 2013, but Najib is understood to be considering an early general election to both secure his personal mandate and improve

BN's existing hold on power.

The ruling coalition suffered its worst ever electoral performance in Election 2008, where it lost its customary parliamentary supermajority and five states to the fledgling PR pact.

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