

**Najib gives polls hint**  
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**By Azura Abas**

BN must win in urban and rural areas, says chairman

**KUALA LUMPUR:** In the strongest hint yet that the general election is just round the corner, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday the war drums "have been struck".

Addressing the Federal Territory Perdana Briefing, the Barisan Nasional chairman and prime minister said the session was held because the time was right to do so.

He said this when asked by the floor when the general election would be called.

"The (war) drums have been struck and (the vibrations) can be felt, especially in the Federal Territory.

"It is like going to war, which we want to win." Najib admitted that BN had its strengths that could be improved and weaknesses which had to be corrected.

"We cannot be arrogant and make empty promises. If we play, we play to win," he said, adding that the coalition would pick winnable candidates who had been thoroughly scrutinised and had the qualities of good leaders — from talent to moral credibility.

Najib said BN should not be known as a party that could garner support only from rural areas and exhorted leaders and members, especially those in FT, to engage urban voters.

"I don't want BN to be known as a rural party that can only garner votes from non-city folk and not from the middle class and intellectual groups, many of whom live in the cities," he told the 8,000 people who had turned up.

Najib said should BN be in an absolute state of readiness, it could once again make inroads into urban areas.

"Kuala Lumpur is important to us because it is our capital city. On paper we can win... (still) it remains on paper.

"It is crucial to have mental readiness and make complete preparations in our rank and file to win the people's support. If we want to win (in the next general election), we have to act on it." For BN to secure victory, Najib listed things members should not do.

“There should be no internal conflicts in the party. There should be no factions in our own party.

“There should be no attempts to sabotage each other. There should not be any tussle over seats among component parties.” Encouraged by the solid agreement from the floor to his reminders, Najib said he believed Federal Territory BN has a bright future.

He also pointed out that BN could no longer conduct “business as usual”.

Najib said nowadays, it was not enough to take care only of the coalition’s hardcore supporters.

He said the 2012 Budget had shown that the BN government also looked after the wellbeing of all, despite differences in political views.

“We want to have more friends and fewer enemies, and to be fair to all.” Najib also highlighted several inconsistencies in the opposition camp, including the absence of a shadow cabinet after three years and the opposition’s undemocratic manner in choosing leaders.

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