

Najib: We will make amends

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Barisan Nasional has learnt from past mistakes and promises to do more for the people

SAYING that the losses in the 2008 general election was because Barisan Nasional had made mistakes, BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday made an apology to the people.

"I apologise for our mistakes prior to the 2008 general election. If we made mistakes in the past and the voters rejected us, we accept it.

"On behalf of BN, I apologise. We have learnt from our mistakes, and we aim and promise the people that we will make amends and bring them to greater heights.

"I and my friends in BN promise you that we will deliver and do more than ever for you," he said to thunderous applause from the 20,000 attendees at a meet-the-people session in Kuala Ketil near here.

The prime minister also said he was confident that there would be overwhelming support for BN in the next general election.

He said the people were fed up with empty promises and mere "slogan" services that the opposition had given them over the past four years.

Najib said the winds of change were prevalent in many parts of the country as the people realised that they had been hoodwinked by the opposition, and that only BN could and would honour its promises.

He said the people appreciated the various socio-economic programmes that the government had introduced.

"We have kept our word when we said we would help them tide over the hard times with special financial assistance like the RM100 allocation for students and RM500 for deserving households.

"And what has the opposition done?" he asked, to which the audience responded with a resounding "nothing!"

Going by their acronyms, he took a swipe at the opposition parties.

He described Pas as Parti asyik serabut (a party which is always messy), Parti Keadilan Rakyat as Parti kalut and ribut (chaotic and stormy party) and the DAP as Depa Ambil Peluang (party of opportunists). He said Kedah Pas was in a serious mess, preoccupied with power struggles and failing miserably to live up to its promise of setting up a welfare state.

He said Pas, giving in to pressure from its partners in the opposition pact, was forced to give up its original mission of setting up an Islamic state.

"The people do not trust the opposition anymore.

"The people know only BN has the capacity and experience to lead them and that is why I am very confident that they will give us the decisive mandate in the next general election."

Besides sharing his confidence, Najib also cautioned BN leaders against infighting and to continue serving the people.

In jest, he asked his audience to "warn" their local leaders, who were on stage with him, to jangan rebut kerusi (don't fight for seats).

"You tell them now," he said, to which his audience, from all walks of life, responded sportingly.

Present yesterday were Kedah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, Baling Umno division chairman Datuk Abdul Azeez Rahim and his Sik counterpart, Datuk Mohd Tajuddin Abdullah.

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