

'Anwar's unwillingness shows he is inconsistent'
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UNABLE TO WALK THE TALK: Opposition leader's refusal to take part in debate is a sign of weakness, says PM

IPOH: PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has described opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's refusal to debate with blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin in Kent, England as being inconsistent with what he preaches.

The prime minister said: "It appears that he (Anwar) is not willing (to debate with Raja Petra).

"We must be consistent... we say we practise democracy and we are open, while deploring the government for not being democratic and open...

"But actually, if we look at their actions like barring some newspapers from attending their press conferences... Is this consistent with what they are preaching all this while?"

Najib was speaking to reporters after officiating the new building at SJK (C) Wan Hwa 2, here, yesterday.

On Friday, Raja Petra called Anwar "a chicken" after the latter reportedly requested to be dropped from a forum to discuss Malaysian politics with WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange.

The forum which was scheduled in Kent yesterday, originally involved Raja Petra, Anwar and Assange.

Najib said this showed Anwar's inconsistency.

"Sooner or later, the people will question him over his inconsistency," said Najib.

In his speech, Najib said Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong had been appointed to conduct dialogues with the public in addressing the issue of the shortage of teachers in Chinese vernacular schools.

In Beruas earlier, Najib reminded the people not to forsake their future by listening to the claims, allegations and promises made by the opposition because the Barisan Nasional government had proven all this while that it could ensure the prosperity of the people and country.

The prime minister said the BN had carried out many things to bring prosperity to the people, including channelling various assistance because it had the capability to manage the country efficiently and effectively.

"The opposition's stories cannot be relied upon because they don't have the capacity to administer the country efficiently.

"Even now, they seem to be in chaos. So, don't listen to them (opposition)," he said in his speech at the programme Sepagi Bersama Perdana Menteri (One Morning With The Prime Minister) at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Changkat Beruas field, here, yesterday.

Najib said the government had also succeeded in reducing national debt and raising national income.

"This means that we are able to administer the country well, manage the national economy efficiently. (We) ensure that the national economy can continue to expand, national revenue increases, (and) when we achieve such success, we return the wealth to the people," said Najib, who made a one-day visit to Perak yesterday,

Referring to the various assistance given by the BN government to the people, he said the government was merely returning to the people the country's revenue.

"Does this make us an irresponsible government? If we return the national wealth to the people, it means that the government is giving priority to the people."

Najib said as such, if the opposition accused the BN government of being irresponsible, the accusation was incorrect.

At a meet-the-people session in Buntong, Najib urged the Indian community not to be fooled by the opposition as it had not fulfilled many promises.

"They made many promises to the Indians, including on the Kampung Buah Pala issue, and they have not delivered," he said.

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