

## **Nik Nazmi claims Muhyiddin is running country**

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**By Debra Chong**

PETALING JAYA, Aug 23 — PKR communications chief Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad alleges Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has taken over the administration of Malaysia from his boss Datuk Seri Najib Razak, as the row over a controversial parliamentary polls panel heats up.

“People used to joke about Rosmah running the country,” he said, referring to the prime minister’s wife, Datin Seri Rosmah.

“Now it’s Muhyiddin who is running the country,” he told reporters after his party’s weekly news conference at headquarters today.

The Selangor state lawmaker’s remark came on the heels of the Najib’s shifting stand over a bi-partisan parliamentary select committee (PSC) he mooted two weeks ago to review the election process.

Putrajaya had been globally condemned for mishandling the Bersih 2.0’s rally in Kuala Lumpur, which saw tens of thousands take to the streets last month to demand electoral reform.

Najib had initially pledged his administration would wait for the outcome from the polls panel before calling for fresh elections.

But Najib is seen to have gone back on his word when he recently said that elections could be called anytime.

Deputy Speaker Datuk Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar waded into the debate recently when he said it would likely take a year for such a committee to review the issue.

Nik Nazmi urged today the Barisan Nasional to reconsider appointing a member of the opposition party to helm the controversial PSC instead of a putting a minister from his Cabinet.

The PKR man said that in developed democracies, it was the practice for opposition parties to chair parliamentary committees, and named India as an example.

The Seri Setia assemblyman claimed that the Selangor Pakatan Rakyat (PR) government had tried to amend its standing orders to reflect this convention and that then-opposition whip, Datuk Seri Dr Khir Toyo had agreed.

But when the proposal was dropped in the state legislative assembly after BN lawmakers opposed it.

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