

**No Necessity To Amend Laws That Protect Public Interest - Najib
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KUANTAN, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said any law in the country should not be amended if it is perceived to protect the people's prosperity.

"Whatever law, formulated in the interest of the people, should be retained if society says the law should be maintained, so there's no need for it to be amended," he told reporters after launching the programme 'Ihsan Samudera', aimed at helping fishermen, here Saturday.

He said this when commenting on the statement by Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in an interview with a foreign television station recently on the need to amend laws which he perceived as archaic.

Asked on the need for a law to embarrass political enemies, Najib said: "We have a law on defamation, if anyone insults someone else without justification then the one who throws the insult can be sued."

Asked on Anwar's claim that the sodomy charge made against the Opposition Leader previously was aimed at embarrassing him, Najib said: "It's not to embarrass (him). This concerned a complaint made by an individual, under the country's law, everyone regardless of his or her position has the same right."

The Prime Minister also criticised the opposition parties in the country for practicing double standard.

"There is an element of double standard. For example they talk about democracy, but only certain newspapers can attend their press conferences, and there are some newspapers which are prevented from attending them.

"Whereas if we believe in the freedom of the media, why should we prevent certain media from attending the press conference. This is only an example," Najib said.

He said: "We cannot have two sets of laws, one for the opposition, and the other for the government."

Commenting on the study by the University of Malaya's Centre for Democracy & Elections (UMCEDEL) that 43 per cent of the people are confident that the Barisan Nasional will be returned to power in the next general election, Najib said:

"I'm excited if there is such a report. But what are the factors for such confidence?

"One of the factors may be that they are confident on the national agenda to achieve transformation to become a developed nation, and we have proven in the past three years through the many changes, numerous new ideas. To a certain extent, these have given confidence to the public on the government," he said.

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