

**Kota Belud, Sabah Umno's Birthplace, Will Remain BN Stronghold - Najib
Bernama
September 02, 2012**

KOTA BELUD, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is optimistic that Kota Belud, which became the birthplace of Sabah Umno through a by-election in 1991, will remain as a Barisan Nasional (BN) stronghold.

In this respect, he is confident that the three state seats, namely Usukan, Tempasuk and Kadamaian in the Kota Belud parliamentary constituency will remain with BN after the upcoming general election.

In the last general election in 2008, all these three state seats and the Kota Belud parliamentary seat were won by BN candidates.

Najib who is also Umno president, said Umno which originated from the peninsula managed to break the ethnic wall in Sabah.

"Actually, the history of Sabah Umno began in Kota Belud after the party was brought into the state by (former Usno president) Tun Datu Mustapha (Datu Harun), where he himself dissolved Usno.

"Therefore, we should be united under the Umno and BN banners so that Sabah continues to be a BN stronghold," he said at the Aidilfitri open house of Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia together with the United Sabah Bajau Organisation (Usbo) in Kampung Rampayan Laut, here, Sunday.

Also present were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and State Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak, who is also Usbo president.

Najib said although Malaysians practised different cultures, this should not hinder them from being united in the political arena for a better future for the people.

"In the past, the colonial power could rule us for 400 years through its divide and rule policy.

"So, we should know that we if we are divided and allow ethnic sentiments to override national and rational considerations, we will become a weak community," he said.

The prime minister also reminded the people of Sabah not to be influenced by the opposition's instigation and sweet promises as "the future of the people is not in the hands of the opposition but the BN government".

He said the people should continue to be with BN and support it which had been governing the country well and had been fair on the whole.

"Only the BN government can create a future that is brighter and more progressive, and not the opposition which is incapable and full of lies.

"For example, the Selangor Menteri Besar said the (party) manifesto was not a promise that must be kept. We in BN mention manifesto as a promise for us to fulfilled. That is why they (opposition) criticised us when we chose the theme, 'Janji Ditepati' (Promises Fulfilled) for the Merdeka celebration this time," Najib said.

Musa, meanwhile, advised the people not to be trapped by the opposition's tactics.

"We will continue our path of struggle to the ballot box, to remain as the ruling government. We have a good prime minister with many sound policies and programmes implemented," he said.

Musa also said that the large turnout at the open house today also showed the people's strong support for BN.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=691394>