

Pakatan not credible alternative to BN, PM says
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 — The Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has no credibility to be an alternative federal government as its three partners are not on the same page, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

The prime minister appeared to mock his political rivals as a major threat to the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, and dared the fledging PR pact to form a shadow government before dreaming of taking control of Putrajaya.

"I challenge Pakatan Rakyat, show me your shadow government, before talk about forming government.

"We have our team, and show me your team," the BN chairman said in opening the Gerakan national delegates conference here this morning.

He sneered at PR's failure to set up a shadow Cabinet, saying "they are afraid to give answers, they don't know how to divide the work".

He stressed that PR has no credibility because the three-party opposition team members were each moving in different directions, raising the dispute between Islamic party PAS and its secular ally DAP over the controversial introduction of hudud, the strict Islamic penal law at the national level.

"If we look from the point of the hudud issue too, PAS says it wants it but DAP says no. In fact Karpal Singh has said 'Over my dead body'," Najib said, referring to the DAP's national chairman.

He said BN was a coalition that moved as a team, and if there were any internal conflicts, they would be resolved through discussions and compromise.

"We worry that if they form the government, they are not in the same direction and finally the country will be shaken," Najib said.

He said the BN government had proven its commitment by presenting a responsible Budget last Friday, adding that PR's proposals "promised the moon, stars and the universe" as a ploy to win over voters at the 13th national polls.

Singling out the Penang government under Lim Guan Eng's leadership as an example, Najib ridiculed the state's "credibility, accountability and transparency" (CAT) motto, which he said now stood for "cockiness, arrogance and 'tokong'" in reference to the DAP secretary-general's purportedly iron-clad style of administration in Penang.

Penang Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Dr Mansor Othman was alleged to have described his superior using the same words in a leaked statement, and BN-controlled media have been highlighting the remark in their reports. Mansor, who from PKR, has not denied making the remark.

The PM praised instead Gerakan president Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon for the latter's hard work in leading the BN's troops to regain Penang.

"How to be government? They administer Penang that has been developed because before this the BN government from Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu to Tan Sri Koh had administered well.

"That is why I am confident that we can give fierce opposition in Penang; in fact, we can capture Penang because Umno, MCA, MIC and especially Gerakan in Penang are ready to face the general election," Najib said.

"Because we are a responsible government, therefore we are better than Pakatan Rakyat."

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