

**Get Battle-ready, Najib Tells BN Components**  
**Bernama**  
**October 21, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has urged all Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to get battle-ready for the 13th general election by activating their election machinery.

The prime minister said before going to war, a thorough preparation should be made, including ensuring that every plan could be executed without doubts.

"We must prepare and be prepared until the outcome of the battle lives us no doubt whatsoever. The preparation is very important, the planning is very important," he said when opening the 59th MCA annual general assembly here Sunday.

Najib, who is also BN chairman, quoted an Islamic philosopher as saying that "You may be right, but if you are not prepared, you may lose by default".

On the MCA general assembly, he said, "The party had made changes... there are noticeable distinctions. I notice that MCA members, who are present in this hall, are so enthusiastic, as stated by MCA president, the MCA is ready for war.

"But we must have one heart and one mind. Who's going to war to lose. Who wants to lose? We want to win and this time around, we want to win big. Are you ready? Ever ready. Is your battery strong?" he said to a loud applause from the delegates.

Najib commended the MCA for being more assertive and not afraid to face the opposition, not only in defending the BN but also in dismissing the opposition's slanders.

On the opposition forays, he said the people should not take the risk of changing the government by choosing a party without a good track record as it could be likened to gambling with the future of the country.

"Some people say it does not matter, if they (the opposition) failed, they can change the ruling party again after five years. But they may not have to wait for five years, even in one

year, the country can be destroyed, the economy faltered, the country collapsed," he added.

He said during the financial crisis (1997), Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was then finance minister, had proposed measures like borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, raising interest rates by 24 per cent and implementing a contraction budget.

"Who had saved us? The BN ... Tun Dr Mahathir ... we had rejected IMF as we wanted to do it our own way," said Najib, adding that if the government let Anwar had his ways, "some taiko (businessmen) in this hall might have to wear slippers today."

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=703659>