

Najib: Barisan can win big if component parties stay united
The Star Online
02 December, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional can win big if component parties work together without bickering with each other, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Sunday.

He said that Umno had moved to ensure zero problems and the other 12 component parties must do likewise. We must move as one unit.

"If Barisan is not saddled with internal problems, we can surely win big in the 13th general election," he said when opening the People's Progress Party (PPP) general assembly on Sunday.

However, Najib said, the coalition could not please all the 13 component parties.

"Sometimes we can, sometimes we can't, but we are sincere about it and we'll do our best to satisfy all parties," he said.

He said that Barisan had gone through a "nightmare" during the 2008 general election and needed to recover from that experience.

He said that PPP president Datuk Seri M. Kayveas had pointed out that it was not that the people wanted the Opposition but wanted to send a message to Barisan that it needed to change.

He said that component parties need to feel the pulse of the nation in order to succeed.

"We have to know that the demands of people today as they are not the same as before. They have changed because they have benefited from our policies," he said.

He said that they were more educated, more aware, more critical, had different expectations and wanted a government that understood their aspirations.

Najib said that Barisan was making changes and that real change and progress could happen with the same party still in power.

"We can make changes within the same Government even though we have been in power for 55 years," he said.

Kayveas, in his speech, had said that the reason the Opposition received support because the people felt strongly about existing racial prejudice and discrimination.

He said that the transformed Barisan government must eliminate these feelings and must make the people feel that there was fairness, justice and equality.

He said that the Opposition could not match the strength of Barisan because they lacked vision and were not united.

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