

Najib: Choice between holistic Barisan and chaotic Opposition
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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak spelt out the choice that Malaysians faced in the next general election, saying that it boiled down to choosing a holistic Barisan Nasional or a chaotic Opposition.

In presenting Umno and the Barisan Nasional's case to the Malaysian public, Najib said some believed there was nothing wrong in giving the Opposition a chance in order to evaluate their ability to manage the country.

However, he stressed that this was too high a risk to take because the country's future was too valuable to be made the subject of an experiment.

"Malaysians need to evaluate and decide whether they want continued transformation spearheaded by Umno and the Barisan government or whether they want to remain adrift in the deceptive words and illogical thinking of the Opposition," he said when opening the Umno general assembly.

With the assembly being the last before the 13th general election, Najib urged the party to prepare for the battle ahead.

"The time has come for us prepare our strategy and consolidate our team. Let us go back to the people to renew our mandate," he told the delegates.

Meanwhile, Pakatan Rakyat has revealed its weaknesses in handling the nation's economy, judging from the plans it had presented in its Buku Jingga, he went on to say.

The Umno president said it was no surprise that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was Finance Minister during the 1997-1998 financial crisis, turned out to be an incompetent economic manager.

"He was the one who suggested that we turn to the International Monetary Fund for help.

"His move to cut down on development fund and rising interest costs at that crucial hour had caused great stress to the people especially the business community," he said in his presidential address at the Umno general assembly Thursday.

Describing the Opposition Leader as a political chameleon, "who has a forked tongue", Najib warned that he changed his tone whenever he needed to depending on who was listening.

"It is clear that no one can guess his real character ..." he said. Najib also said Malaysians had the right to know the truth before they decided whom they wanted to vote for.

"After all, the general election is not an experiment," he said, adding that five years was a long time in governing a nation.

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