

Najib: BN gaining strength

New Straits Times

September 02, 2012

By R. SITTAMPARAM AND SEAN AUGUSTIN

WINDS OF CHANGE: Big turnouts at BN events in Selangor show people want BN rule

SUNGAI BULOH: DATUK Seri Najib Razak said the big turnout at Barisan Nasional-organised events in Selangor is indicative of the heartfelt intention of the people for a change back to BN rule in the coming general election.

Speaking at Selangor BN's Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house at the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia grounds, here, yesterday, the BN chairman and prime minister said he was happy to see 100,000 people gathered there.

"There are so many more people at this function compared with last year. The crowd is also bigger than at the Selangor government's Merdeka Day celebration.

"We already know (of increasing support) based on the ever-increasing crowd at the many functions we have had and the Janji Ditepati gathering at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Friday," he said, adding that there was not a single empty seat at the stadium as 130,000 people had attended the event.

"This is how we celebrate and show respect for Merdeka Day, which is a meaningful day to remember our independence.

"What is incredible is that the Selangor menteri besar says that what is stated in the Pakatan Rakyat manifesto is not a promise.

"So, if they can lie to the people and do not respect them, what is the need to vote for them?"

Najib said since he took over the Selangor BN leadership, he had fulfilled many of the promises made to the people such as BR1M, school aid, tyre vouchers for taxi drivers and more.

"We have delivered more than what we promised in our manifesto."

The prime minister said the people of Selangor were ready for change.

Najib later presented duit raya to 500 orphans and 3,000 children.

Earlier, when opening the Putrajaya Umno division meeting, Najib said Malaysia had proved its naysayers' predictions of the country's future wrong by becoming a nation others looked up to.

Citing examples such as the commendation by Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, who said Malaysia was "an exemplary country", the positive coverage by international news agencies such as the Financial Times, as well as Tanzania's intentions to emulate the nation's transformation programmes, Najib said Malaysians should take pride in such things.

The Financial Times noted that Malaysia's economy was enjoying a gravity-defying boom that had confounded sceptics, through the Economic Transformation Programme initiated by Najib.

Tanzanian president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete had said the transformation programmes were comprehensive and the best agenda to implement.

"Many said the country would face challenges and that we would not be able to achieve our dream of becoming a successful nation," Najib said.

"After 55 years of independence, we are a model for other countries to emulate."

He noted that although some nations achieved independence earlier, they were not as successful.

Some European countries, he said, were facing economic crisis, with the "light at the end of the tunnel yet to be seen".

Najib also said Umno and BN needed to win big in the coming general election as the recent analysis that the ruling coalition was "most likely to win" the 13th general election was not enough. The election, he added, must be won in style.

"If they have the 'road to Putrajaya', we need to stop them from reaching it.

"We need to set up a political roadblock because they are unfit to administer the country as they have not kept their promises. They lie and have many more skeletons in their closet," he said, alluding to the opposition.

"As 45 per cent of the voters today were born after Merdeka, they have different aspirations and ideas compared with the older generation."

This, he said, was the new reality and landscape that must be understood while old values such as loyalty, sacrifice and unity must be retained.

"Adapting to the new environment is important. There is no such thing as political invincibility in a parliamentary democracy."

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/najib-bn-gaining-strength-1.134102>