

Resignations have no impact on BN's strength in Sabah, says Najib
TheStarOnline
August 04, 2012
By MAZWIN NIK ANIS and RAZAK AHMAD

KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional and Umno's position in Sabah is not affected by the resignation of two leaders from the state, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said the coalition and Umno would take appropriate measures to further strengthen their position in Sabah.

"There is a lot of talk and speculation going around but we are confident that Barisan's position is unaffected and that we are able to tackle any challenges that come our way," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

Najib was asked to comment on talk that several other Barisan component leaders in the state would resign after Umno supreme council member and Beaufort division chairman Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin and Upko deputy president Datuk Wilfred Bumburing quit their posts last weekend.

Najib said he had already met several Sabah Barisan leaders and would be meeting them again when he visited the state on Aug 11.

He added that the supreme council had decided to appoint Beaufort Umno deputy chief Isnin Aliasnih as acting division head and ordered the state liaison committee to assist the division and ensure that Umno remained strong in Sabah.

He said that a show-cause letter had been sent to Lajim and "due process will take place before any decision on his membership can be made".

To a question, the party president said recent events in Sabah would not affect election plans.

"But I do not know when it (general election) will be held. It can either be this year or next year," he said.

The Prime Minister added that he would also announce the terms of reference for the Royal Commission of Inquiry on illegal immigrants in Sabah during his visit to the state.

Najib had on June 1 announced the formation of the RCI to investigate the long-standing problems related to illegal immigrants in the state.

Later, Najib and his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin attended a breaking-of-fast ceremony hosted by Umno.

Copyright © 1995-2012 Star Publications (M) Bhd

Source: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/8/4/nation/11797047&sec=nation>