

BN Leaders Upbeat In Face Of Polls
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- The spirit of togetherness in facing the 13th general election and the desire to ensure that the Barisan Nasional (BN) wins a clear mandate was visible at a briefing given by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The political transformation in the BN engineered by the prime minister has greatly changed the attitude and mentality of party members and leaders to rise to the occasion as he leads the coalition in his first polls since the political tsunami five years ago.

Among the message driven home by Najib at a briefing held for leaders of BN component parties here today was to remain united, avoid sabotage and give undivided support to the candidates and the party machinery.

Speaking to reporters after the briefing, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said the prime minister had shown his ability to make tough decisions in the face of the general election.

"The number of seats is limited, maybe some people are not happy, but the prime minister has to make the final decision based on his political wisdom and in the interest of the BN," he added.

He said the 15-day campaign period was appropriate and added that in fact, all parties had been campaigning since 2008.

Commenting on Najib's expectations of BN candidates, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said all parties should support the candidates fielded for the prime minister had studied them well before making the choice.

MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel said the prime minister asked all component parties to go on the ground to ensure a landslide victory for the BN.

Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the longer campaign period was enough for all parties to activate their machinery while the BN would capitalise on it to strengthen its struggle.

Umno vice-president and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the BN machinery was ready to enter the war zone.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said Najib wanted members of all BN component parties to ward off the opposition onslaughts to ensure that the BN win by a two-thirds majority.

Negeri Sembilan BN chairman Datuk Mohamad Hasan said the longer campaign period showed the EC willingness to continue to improve and upgrade the electoral system.

People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said the prime minister's message would guide the PPP in securing the seats allocated to the party in the polls.

Sabah BN secretary Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said the longer campaign period would

enable candidates to meet as many voters as they could in their constituencies.

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