

Najib tells voters not to doubt electoral process
Malaysian Insider
April 3, 2013
By Boo Su-Lyn

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak urged Malaysians against questioning the integrity of the electoral process in Election 2013 as he took a swipe at opposition parties when announcing the dissolution of Parliament today.

The prime minister pointed out that other countries suffered instability when the results of their elections were doubted.

“There are certain political parties that sow suspicions and doubts about the integrity of the coming election,” said Najib during a live television broadcast today.

“Repent and learn from what happened in other countries. The results of the elections in such countries were not accepted. The governments that were elected were rejected. The countries became unstable. National harmony was affected and the people suffered,” he added.

Najib called on both Barisan Nasional (BN) and the opposition Pakatan Rakyat to make a commitment to respect the people’s decision in the 13th general election.

“Let’s pray together that this election will be run smoothly, peacefully and safely,” said the BN chairman.

The Malaysian Insider understands that national polls may be held as soon as April 20 or a week later on April 27, depending on the Election Commission’s (EC) arrangements.

Polls watchdog Bersih said last month that the electoral roll was still marred with irregularities, after several people alleged that they were registered as voters without their knowledge, while others found their voter details changed without consent.

PKR’s Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar filed for a judicial review against the EC at the Kuala Lumpur High Court last month to compel it to clean up the Lembah Pantai electoral roll.

Nurul Izzah’s move comes after Klang MP Charles Santiago lost his court bid last month to review the gazetted electoral roll.

Bersih also vowed last month to name and shame Election 2013 candidates that condoned political violence.

Bersih co-chairman Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan had said the move was part of the group’s response to the failure by local authorities and national leaders to condemn and stop the recent escalation of political violence.

Najib, along with leaders from BN component parties, recently signed Transparency International-Malaysia’s Election Integrity Pledge, in a move they claimed displayed their seriousness in playing fair in the upcoming polls.

But Najib and his coalition have come under heavy fire for their muted response to several

violent attacks on the opposition, allegedly perpetrated by BN supporters or members of hardline groups linked to Umno, the ruling coalition's Malay lynchpin.

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