

BN Manifesto Set To Wow Voters As PKR Squabbles
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- As party buntings and flags mushroom nationwide, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is all set to unveil the Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto Saturday night to underscore his continued commitment to meaningful changes that will transform the lives of Malaysians.

The stage will be the Putra Indoor Stadium in Bukit Jalil, the venue where scores of Malaysian shuttlers have battled tooth and nail to bring glory to the country.

Najib, who is leading the BN into a general election for the first time as prime minister, will be flanked by leaders of the coalition's component parties representing all ethnic groups and states under BN rule.

In tandem with the BN's national manifesto, there will also be a supplementary manifesto for each state that will address local needs and issues.

The tempo of the run-up to the 13th General Election picked up further today, with the Election Commission announcing that it would meet on Wednesday to set the nomination and polling dates.

The prime minister went about his duties today, with a ground-breaking ceremony for the RM62 million Cyberjaya mosque where he also announced a RM6 billion Cyberjaya city centre project, as well as a RM1 billion mixed development project that will include 749 affordable homes costing between RM220,000 and RM250,000 each, under the 1Malaysia People's Housing (PR1MA) programme.

Meanwhile, signals from the various parties indicate that the selection of candidates and seat allocations are still on the table.

A big poser is whether Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman will take on DAP veteran leader Lim Kit Siang for the Gelang Patah parliamentary seat.

Abdul Ghani, who has helmed Johor for four terms, did not deny or confirm this when approached by journalists after he performed Friday prayers in Ledang which is the parliamentary constituency under which one of the state seats is Serom that he retained in the 2008 General Election.

All he said was, "Wait".

Lim's decision to contest in Gelang Patah for the first time continues to ruffle the grassroots, according to Johor Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) chairman Datuk Chua Jui Meng who was eyeing the seat.

Emerging from two weeks of silence, Chua held a press conference at the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya and said the local community was disappointed with the opposition leadership for not allowing him (Chua) to stand, instead.

It had yet to be decided where he would stand, he added.

Also today, another rift emerged in the PKR after de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

had announced that party president Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is his wife, would not contest in the election, with their daughter Nurul Izzah, who is a party vice-president, disputing this and quickly countered by party deputy president Mohamed Azmin Ali who said Anwar was correct.

Anwar had made the statement in an interview with Al-Jazeera television on Wednesday when he was asked on criticism of nepotism in the party.

Nurul Izzah, who dismissed Anwar's remark as "political talk", said that there was no such plan.

Mohamed Azmin insisted today that Wan Azizah would not contest and that she would tour the country to woo women voters, despite Wan Azizah having stated last week that she would stand for a state seat in Selangor.

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