

BN To Take Manifesto To Voters During GE13 Campaign
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- As nomination day draws closer, the Barisan Nasional (BN), which will unveil its candidates early next week, has announced it has lined up 66,600 ceramahs to explain its manifesto that revolves around Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's pledges to build a better Malaysia for all.

The ceramahs will be held during the 15-day campaign period between nominations on April 20 and polling on May 5.

With the opposition parties still quarrelling over seat allocations, the BN is confident it could wrestle over 160 parliamentary seats of the 222 at stake, BN information and publicity chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan told reporters here.

BN deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was in Sarawak Saturday, said voters should note that the discord among the opposition parties showed they were incapable of forming a government.

"There is a manifestation that there is no consensus among opposition parties as they scramble for seats, believing they can form the next government. So, each of them wants to have more seats so that they have an idea as to who could be the next prime minister," he said.

He was speaking to reporters at a community gathering in the compound of the Darul Iman mosque in Sadong Jaya near Kuching.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was in Lahad Datu where he declared that 'Ops Daulat' would end in a few days' time, and officially launched the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom), following the Sulu terrorist intrusion there last month.

Esscom is the enforcement agent for the Eastern Sabah Safety Zone (Esszone) which covers 10 districts - Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Beluran, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Kunak, Semporna and Tawau - along a 1,400km stretch of the Sabah east coast.

Najib reassured voters in the area not to fear for their safety and come out to cast their votes on May 5.

In JOHOR BAHRU, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin again faced questions if he would be the next Johor menteri besar.

"Every time, when the general election is around the corner, I will be the subject of speculation. I've grown tired of it," he told reporters after launching the state-level 'Let's go to Varsity Carnival' at Persada Johor in the state capital.

Longtime incumbent Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman is reported to be a possible candidate for the Gelang Patah parliamentary seat to take on DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was in Pendang, Kedah, urged PAS members to quit the party, saying PAS was only using Islam to garner votes.

He said he was helping Umno and BN to campaign, and had no intention of contesting.

In PENANG, DAP national chairman Karpal Singh appealed to opposition parties to ensure there were no three-cornered fights, following reports that the Kedah DAP would contest on its own, if its demand for two parliamentary and six state seats was not met.

"There must be give-and-take, there must be compromises made. Not everyone can be satisfied but ultimately, (we) must satisfy as many as possible. Three- cornered fights are fatal to the PR," he told a press conference here today.

On another issue, more PKR members have quit the party with another group of 150 leaving the Padang Serai branch last night, to form the Kampung Beka Umno branch to support BN challengers in the Lunas and Merbau Pulas state constituencies and the Padang Serai parliamentary constituency.

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