

**'New Team' To Bring Transformation Agenda For Najib - Associate Professor  
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JOHOR BAHRU, April 17 (Bernama) -- In its quest to win the hearts and minds of the younger generation who are merely fresh voters, Barisan Nasional (BN) has announced a significant list of new faces for the coming 13th General Election (GE13) on May 5.

The same goes for the opposition, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) coalition, which will also field new candidates.

Dr Farish A. Noor, Associate Professor for the Contemporary Islam Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said:

"The fact that so many new faces are to be seen seems to suggest that both the BN and PR coalitions are trying to present the image that they have changed and taken into consideration the aspirations and desires of the younger generation of first-time voters and fence-sitters.

"This is particularly true for the BN, that has fielded many new candidates who have never been seen (before), and perhaps, this is part of the 'new team' to bring about the transformation agenda of Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Najib (Tun) Razak," he told Bernama.

Farish, a Malaysian, was asked to comment on BN's move to introduce many new faces, not only for the state seats but also parliamentary seats in the GE13.

To conquer the opposition controlled states like Selangor and Kedah, he said the BN had carefully lined up 80 per cent and 50 per cent new candidates, respectively.

"This election campaign has been very centrist, with both sides appealing to the economic needs of the public as a whole.

On Tuesday, in efforts to re-take the opposition ruled-Selangor, Najib, who is also Selangor BN chairman, announced that BN would field 80 per cent new faces, among them professionals and credible individuals, in the state in the GE13.

Kedah BN will have 50 per cent new candidates, while Kelantan unveiled a line up of 25 new faces and veterans.

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