

Transformation is best for us, says PM
New Straits Times
14 February 2013
By M. HAMZAH JAMALUDIN AND HIDIR REDUAN

STAY THE COURSE: 'Abrupt changes in govt will affect growth, peace'

PEKAN: THE government's transformation agenda is a better way to help the people compared with the "reformasi" concept championed by the opposition.

This has been proven by the various forms of assistance and initiatives introduced under the Government Transformation Programme that have improved the lives of the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said the abrupt changes brought about by "reformasi" and revolution would affect the continuity of development and peace in the country.

"If reform involves demonstrations and hurling chairs (during party elections) then it is definitely not good for the people," he said, adding that history had also shown that the results of a revolution would not necessarily give the people a better tomorrow.

"Through our transformation agenda, the people get various forms of assistance including the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) and cash aid for students while Felda families received RM15,000 each," he said at the "Goger Sekampung" feast at Bandar Dara, Chini near here yesterday.

Goger is a local term used to describe the chaotic scene during a gotong royong for a feast.

The prime minister also cautioned the people that there were those who tried to bring in the revolutionary spirit under the pretext of "reformasi".

"They don't call it a revolution but use other terms such as reformasi," he said at the function, which was attended by more than 20,000 people from the Felda Chini cluster.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, said that apart from setting foot in Gaza recently, he also had the chance to visit Egypt and witnessed first hand the sad situation in Cairo two years after the uprising that forced Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to step down.

He said what he saw proved that transformation was much better than reformasi or revolution as the former could help improve the people's standard of living without jeopardising peace and unity.

Najib also told the crowd that instead of helping the people, the opposition only knew how to make empty promises, create slogans and hang giant party flags.

"We cannot live only with slogans and giant flags. Can giant flags give you food, support your school-going children or repair your homes," he asked, to which the crowd responded with a thundering "No".

He said BR1M had helped many people including about 7, 000 people in Chini, who received the BR1M 2 vouchers at the function.

Najib said BR1M 2 was much better than the first one as it also benefited single people. He hinted that BR1M 3 would be distributed next year if BN was given the mandate to continue ruling the country.

Later, at the handing over of house keys to Felcra participants in Kampung Sri Makmur, Najib said the people continued to support the BN government as they realised that the coalition had always ensured continuity in terms of policies and development.

"A country's development must have continuity from one era to another. If it is suddenly cut off, then we will never reach the finishing line."

Najib said the successful transformation of Kampung Sri Makmur, which was opened by his late father Tun Razak Hussein in 1971, was further proof of how continuity and urbanisation had developed the rural areas.

"That is why the best changes are made through a well-planned and systematic approach. It should come from the leaders who have the people's aspirations close to their heart."

Compared with those in other countries, Najib said youths in Malaysia also had a better life and future as a result of the government's far-sighted plan for them.

The prime minister also brought cheer to Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) students in Egypt when he said that they would be given a cost of living allowance by the agency.

He said the allowance would help ease their burden as the cost of living in the country had increased since the uprising two years ago.

He said he knew about the difficulties faced by the students when one of them raised the issue during his meeting with them in Cairo last month.

"The student told me that the cost of living in Egypt was spiralling since the regime change following the uprising by the people."

Najib said he had discussed the issue with Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and the latter had agreed to solve the problem by allocating the allowance. It is learnt that about 700 Mara students there will receive an additional RM900 in monthly allowance.

Najib later visited the three-room bungalows, priced at only RM50,000 each, as Felcra has allocated RM18 million to build the infrastructure and subsidise the construction cost.

Present were Shafie and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob. **Additional reporting by Hanif Salim**

Copyright © 2013 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/top-news/transformation-is-best-for-us-says-pm-1.219837?localLinksEnabled=false/Article>