

**Najib confident that people will accept BN candidates**  
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KUCHING: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is confident that the people will accept any candidate fielded by the Barisan Nasional because they believe in the government's transformation policies.

"I notice that the people's response have been very encouraging because they are convinced that the policies will benefit the people and guarantee a better future," he told reporters after a meeting with the state Barisan leaders.

Najib, who concluded his three-day working visit to Sarawak, said Barisan had to consider the acceptability of the candidates based on this factor.

"I have more or less decided on the list of candidates. Wait and see when the time comes," he said, but added that he would not jump the gun on the question of direct BN candidates being fielded in any of the 31 parliamentary seats in Sarawak.

With the support of the state government under Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is Sarawak BN chairman, Najib said he believed Barisan could bring more changes to Sarawak.

On preparations by the state Barisan, Najib said as a whole, it had made good preparations in its election machinery.

Of the 31 parliament seats, Parti Pesaka Bersatu Bumiputera (PBB) proposed to contest in 14 constituencies, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) in five constituencies, Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) in six constituencies while the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party in four seats.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Barisan secretary Datuk Dr Stephen Rundi said the Prime Minister offered his advice on preparations for the GE13 at the closed-door meeting which did not discuss the final list of the Sarawak BN candidates.

SPDP president Tan Sri William Mawan Ikom said his party was willing to compromise on seat allocation in the spirit of Barisan.

PRS president Tan Sri Dr James Masing said the issue of former Sarawak Nasional Party (SNAP) rejoining the BN coalition did not arise anymore as it was already de-registered.

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