

**PM Addresses Kota Belud Folks Via Phone After Bad Weather Grounded Chopper
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KOTA BELUD, April 23 (Bernama) - Bad weather prevented Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak from reaching Kota Belud but he managed to address residents via mobile phone.

He had to rely on mobile technology after his trip to Kota Belud was cancelled when the helicopter carrying him was unable to fly due to bad weather conditions.

Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, earlier visited Bongawan, Papar and was supposed to arrive in Kota Belud at 4pm, the third stop on his two-day Sabah visit.

Using the phone of BN candidate for Kota Belud, Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, he apologised for not meeting the 10,000 people who had waited for him since afternoon.

"I am currently in Bongawan. The helicopter can't fly due to bad weather. I apologise to the 10,000 people there. I believe that you all are BN supporters.

"I appeal to the BN machinery to work hard to ensure that we can form a strong government at national and state level," he said greeted by cheers.

His address was heard by thousands of attendees as the phone was put on full volume and placed near a microphone by Abdul Rahman.

The Kota Belud community was urged to reject the opposition and prove that they they were not the choice of Sabahans.

"After the incident in Lahad Datu, Sabahans must be aware that only the BN government is able to guarantee the security and sovereignty of the country.

"I also assure that more rapid development will be implemented if Sabahans continue to support BN."

Before ending, Najib once again apologised to those in Kota Belud followed by cheers of "Hidup BN" and "Tetap BN" and greeted by those present.

Commenting on the turn of events, Abdul Rahman said it was much regretted, but understandable as the safety of the prime minister was of utmost concern.

"I believe that the people of Kota Belud understand this situation," he said, adding that prime minister was sad as he could not visit the district.

Abdul Rahman also conveyed a message from the community leaders indicating that the prime minister should be "sogit" or imposed a 'friendly type of fine'.

"This is a local tradition. Some local community leaders whispered that the prime minister should be 'sogit', to ensure resounding success for our contest in parliament and state seats."

The fine according to Abdul Rahman, was that Najib must visit Kota Belud after the 13th

general election as a victorious prime minister.

"They promise to deliver (in the general election), but want the prime minister to return as a victorious leader after the general election."

Najib is scheduled to attend a dinner with the Federation of Sabah Chinese Associations in Dewan Hakka, Kota Kinabalu Tuesday night.

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