

Turn GE13 Into Battlefield To Reject Opposition, Najib Tells Sabahans
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KUALA PENYU, April 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has urged Sabahans to turn the 13th general election (GE13) into a battlefield to reject the opposition for making a farce of the state's peace and security.

The prime minister said only the Barisan Nasional (BN) was able to ensure the state's security and sovereignty.

"Sabahans should make their wise judgement in no uncertain terms on May 5. This (Sabah's sovereignty) must be defended for it is bigger than the question of development, greater than bitumen roads that had been constructed.

"It's not about seats (constituencies), but the question of Sabah's dignity and sovereignty within Malaysia which the BN has promised to defend even with our lives," he said at the Sabah Foundation road show attended by over 8,000 people here today.

Present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, State Community Development and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun, who is BN candidate for the Beaufort parliamentary seat, BN candidate for Klias state seat Isnin Aliasneh, and BN candidate for the Kuala Penyu state seat Limus Jury, who is a newcomer.

Najib, who is also BN chairman, said Sabahans should not spend too much time evaluating the opposition for they were wise when it came to making a choice.

"The Lahad Datu (terrorist) intrusion should be a lesson where an individual lusting for power and questioning the country's sovereignty should not be allowed to succeed," he said.

Najib said the BN government managed to bring prosperity to the people through its transformation agenda which was more meaningful than the opposition's cries for reform, but hardly resulted in any progress.

Reiterating that the BN manifesto is a pledge to ensure the people's prosperity, he praised the Sabah BN manifesto which also laid out the state's report card.

He said based on the report card, the state government had implemented various development programmes, including poverty eradication, for the benefit of Sabahans.

Najib said the federal government would ensure that development allocations for Sabah would exceed the amount of the payment of its oil royalty.

"Upon completion of the Kimanis oil and gas terminal project, Sabah's oil production will increase. And the government will give back a bigger development allocation to Sabah, much bigger than the 20 per cent oil royalty promised in the opposition manifesto," he said.

In the meantime, he urged members of BN component parties to remain loyal to their party.

Najib, who is also Umno president, urged party members to love the party more than individuals for its objective and principle were greater than that of individuals and those who betrayed the party would be penalised by the people.

At the event, Najib opened the 1.1 km Kuala Penyu Bridge spanning over Sungai Sitompok costing RM60 million.

Meanwhile, about 200 PKR members led by Beaufort division head Abdul Jarih Ukin, who is also a younger brother of incumbent Beaufort Member of Parliament Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin, announced that they quit the party to join the BN.

Lajim, who left Umno and now heads Pertubuhan Pakatan Perubahan Sabah, will defend the Beaufort parliamentary seat and contest the Klias state seat on PKR tickets.

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