

Malaysia Can Become Bankrupt By Fulfilling Opposition Pact's Manifesto Promises
- Najib
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RANAU (Sabah), April 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today he feared that Malaysia could go the way of some European countries and plunge into bankruptcy if it gave away everything free as promised in the election manifesto of the opposition pact.

The prime minister said the country would be eventually at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and would have to beg for assistance.

The manifesto of the opposition pact was baseless and was drawn up purely to garner the people's support in this general election, he said when addressing the people at the Ranau community hall, here. Polling is on May 5.

The manifesto had promised, among other things, free education and the lowering of fuel prices.

"The opposition pact has made all kinds of promises, but is there anything free in the world? Nothing's free in this world. Like the Europeans say, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

"Why did some European countries become bankrupt? It's because they did not manage (their economies) well. They imposed high taxes, gave no incentives. Then there is the black economy, taxes were not paid, in the end the economy crumbled. "If this can happen to European countries, it is not impossible for it to happen to our country. It can happen to Malaysia, if we implement all that is promised in the manifesto of the opposition pact," he said.

Also present at the event were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman; the BN candidate for the Ranau parliamentary seat Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin; the BN candidate for the Karanaan state seat Datuk Masidi Manjun; the BN candidate for the Paginatan state seat Datuk Sirigan Gubat and the BN candidate for the Kundasang state seat Datuk Dr Joachim Gunsalam.

Najib said Finance Ministry officers had calculated that if the opposition manifesto was implemented, the country would have to borrow money for salaries and subsidies within a year.

"If we have to borrow money for salaries and subsidies, it means we are going to become bankrupt. However, if we use the national revenue to build schools and make available the infrastructure for investment and for the comfort of the people, we will drive the economy further and bring more prosperity to the people," he said.

Najib said Malaysia under the administration of the BN government was well managed, so much so that the national economic growth registered 5.6 per cent last year. "We are among the countries well advanced in terms of the economy. Under the BN administration, I must admit that the Sabah BN government led by Datuk Seri Musa Aman had recorded achievements, among them the biggest budget and reserves.

"In this way, we find that the country continues to progress. When there is progress, we will return the wealth to the people, by way of the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), 1 and 2," he said.

Najib gave the assurance that BR1M 3 would be better than BR1M 2 and so on, with the sum rising in stages.

"In this way, our economy will grow, the people will be happy and when they are happy, they will give their undivided support to the BN," he said.

As such, Najib wanted the people of Sabah to reject the opposition, which he said only made empty promises, and give strong backing to the BN.

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