

Najib Promises Baling Folks A Specialist Hospital, District Mosque
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BALING (Kedah), April 30 (Bernama) -- Baling constituents have been promised a specialist hospital and a district mosque if the Barisan Nasional (BN) wrests the parliamentary seat from PAS in the 13th General Election, polling for which is on Sunday.

The pledge was made by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who met the people in Kupang today to whip up support for the BN candidate for Baling, Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim.

Najib said the hospital would serve the needs of the people in the Baling and Sik districts.

"I will make this a pledge. We will build a specialist hospital for Baling and Sik. But we have to win first," he said when addressing a gathering at Padang Keda, Pekan Batu Kedah, in Kupang near here.

He also said that he realised that there was no large district mosque in Baling, and added that this would be come a reality if the BN won the seat.

Najib said he was confident Abdul Azeez, the 1Malaysia Putera Club president, would be an exemplary MP because he held a good track record in welfare work.

"I have sent him all over the world to provide assistance to the needy, including in Gaza. He accomplished the job well. He is good in taking care of the welfare of people, and will do well in Baling, given the chance," he said.

Abdul Azeez, in his speech earlier, said the absence of a specialist hospital in Baling forced the people to go all the way to Sungai Petani for treatment.

"Baling has many cases of people being bitten by vipers. The victims have to go to the Sungai Petani Hospital for treatment because the Baling district hospital has no facility for such treatment," he said.

Abdul Azeez is facing Brig Gen (Rtd) Datuk Najmi Ahmad of PAS in a straight fight for the Baling seat. The incumbent is Taib Azamudden Md Taib of PAS, who won the seat in 2008 with a majority of 7,613 votes.

Also present at the event were Kedah BN chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah and the BN candidates for the three state seats within the Baling parliamentary constituency - Datuk Azmi Che Husin (Bayu), Khairul Azhar Abdullah (Kuala Ketil) and Harun Abdul Aziz (Kupang).

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