

GE13: Najib - Campaign period reflects healthy democracy
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KUALA LUMPUR: The 15-day campaign period is a healthy reflection of the democratic process in the country, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Barisan Nasional chairman said the coalition accepted the Election Commission's decision and would up the ante in finalising its preparations for the general election "battle".

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said the party would step up its preparations for the general election following the announcement.

"We have started preparing for a long while but we will step it up now. He (Najib) reminded everyone that leaders from component parties would be disappointed if they are not chosen as candidates.

"However, they must continue to work hard to ensure victory for Barisan candidates for the sake of the coalition and the country," he said.

Asked on the lengthy campaign period, Dr Chua said it would not make a difference. "13 or 15 days is the same to me," he said.

MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said the long campaign period would not be a factor as Barisan was ready. "What matters now is victory for Barisan," he said.

PPP president Datuk Seri M. Kayveas said it was important for party members to unite and ensure a Barisan victory.

Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the duration of the campaign was not an issue.

"The most important thing is Barisan is ready. We must do our best no matter how long the campaign period is," he said.

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