

## **GE13: BN leaders scrambling to finish up chores**

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PUTRAJAYA: Barisan Nasional party leaders are frantically trying to finish chores that Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has set for them before he can call the 13th general election.

According to sources, candidature is no longer the main concern but rather putting out small but dangerous "fires" to prevent sabotage at the grassroots level.

They said Najib was giving priority to soothing disappointed aspirants as he does not want a repeat of 2008 when many seats were lost because of sabotage by people who were not picked or dropped as candidates.

Yesterday, he met the mentris besar of Johor, Perak and Terengganu and the chief ministers of Sabah and Malacca as well as Selangor Barisan deputy chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar and state coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed.

More meetings with party and state leaders are scheduled for today.

Barisan sources believe that most issues, particularly the candidacy, have been resolved "at least 95%" and that all component parties were geared up and ready for battle.

An aide to a Barisan component party president said his boss met Najib twice last week and "almost 90% of the issues involving candidacy has been resolved".

Barisan information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan said the sessions were to finalise election preparations, with Najib wanting to know the progress made by each state and component party.

"We have tied up most loose ends, tackled the issue of sabotage and ensured that the Barisan election machinery will work no matter who the candidates are," he said.

Najib is said to be keen on ensuring that his national transformation programmes are well off the ground before seeking to dissolve the Dewan Rakyat.

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