

## **Haul up Najib for okaying sex and smut campaign, polls body urged**

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The Election Commission (EC) was today urged to summon Datuk Seri Najib Razak to explain Barisan Nasional's sex and smut election campaign against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the Kajang by-election.

PKR vice-president N. Surendran said such a strategy would have had the prime minister's backing. Najib should bear responsibility for it.

Yesterday, Umno information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan said it was important to explain to voters all of Anwar's previous cases, including the appeal of his acquittal over a sodomy charge.

Ahmad said the disclosure was so that voters could make an informed choice on polling day.

"There are a few instances, including his sodomy case and his videos, which should be explained to the public so they know Anwar's character.

"Is this the type of leader that Pakatan Rakyat can offer?" he said at a news conference after a closed-door meeting with the Selangor Barisan Nasional machinery on Sunday.

Surendran said Najib must be held responsible for Umno's decision to conduct such a campaign as it could not have been taken without the connivance and approval of its party president.

"This is an unethical, dirty and desperate bid by Umno to challenge Anwar and Pakatan Rakyat in the crucial Kajang by-election," Surendran, who is also Padang Serai MP said, in a statement.

He said Umno was afraid of the impact from the rising cost of living and had to resort to vilification and character assassination.

"This is also a desperate bid by Umno against a backdrop of widespread corruption."

He said the sodomy allegations and alleged sex videos of Anwar were part of a baseless smear campaign orchestrated by Umno and the BN since 1998.

"In short, Umno plans to use their own fabricated allegations against Anwar to cheat and mislead voters during the by-election."

Surendran said it was unprecedented for a major political party to announce publicly that it would be running a sex and smut campaign against a political opponent.

The "sickening" election strategy degraded public discourse and undermined democratic debate, he added.

"The EC must respond and condemn Umno's sex and smut campaign and summon Najib for an explanation over Ahmad's announcement."

Surendran said EC chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof (pic) must be proactive in defending the integrity of the election process.

"It is his (Abdul Aziz) constitutional duty to do so under Article 113 of the Federal Constitution and failure to do so will prove that the EC is a toothless tiger and is biased in favour of BN," said Surendran, urging Najib and Umno to withdraw their plans of a sex and smut campaign and pledge a clean and fair one. – February 3, 2014.

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