

**PAS: Has GST made Najib a political liability to Umno?**  
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**The absence of 'Bapa GST' (Father of GST) in the by-election campaigns in Rompin and Permatang Pauh raises a big question mark.**

PETALING JAYA: "Various parties have questioned the absence of images of Prime Minister Najib Razak on the Rompin and Permatang Pauh campaign trails," said PAS' Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man in a statement today.

The party's Vice-President said that this was the first time pictures of the PM were not used as a pull factor for voters of Umno-BN.

"In the past, 'I Love PM' banners always outnumbered those of the by-election candidate."

Tuan Ibrahim claims that voters are also asking why the Prime Minister has not shown up in Rompin or Permatang Pauh to show support for his party's candidates.

"Has the PM, now known as the Father of GST (Goods and Service Tax), become a liability for BN, in particular UMNO — as mentioned by Mahathir Mohamad?"

Tuan Ibrahim warned that these are early signs that the Prime Minister has his back against the wall.

"(He) does not have much of a choice but to resign as prime minister because Umno and the people have lost confidence in him following the continuous attacks against him by Tun Mahathir."

This, he said, is coupled with "his wife's wasteful ways in the midst of the people's sufferings."

Najib has failed to instil confidence in the people regarding the GST, a failure matched only by that of Deputy Finance Minister Ahmad Maslan, now billed as 'the Stepfather of GST.'

Political observers are now waiting to see which "parent" steps down first — Ahmad or Najib, said Tuan Ibrahim.

He also made a humorous reference to the tune "Injit-Injit Semut".

The chorus goes: "Injit-injit semut, siapa sakit, naik atas", meaning that the person whose hand is getting bitten should have incentive to move to the top, away from the ants.

Tuan Ibrahim suggested a change of lyrics: "Injit-Injit semut, siapa sakit turun bawah" — whoever is getting bitten most painfully should move to the bottom.

It is clearly a metaphor for the current predominant political wave — whoever cannot stand the many barbs (regarding the GST) needs to resign.

“We know that whatever the results of the Rompin and Permatang Pauh by-elections, it does not mean that the GST would be abolished immediately,” he said.

However, he said, voters in Rompin and Permatang Pauh can send a strong signal and at least prevent “the rate of the GST from being recklessly hiked-up in the coming years.”

This, he said, will only sustain “the extravagance of our leaders and cover up for negligence and abuse in managing the country’s finances.”

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