

PM Need Not Worry About No-Confidence Vote, Says Analyst
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should not worry about any calls for him to face a vote of no-confidence in Parliament as he has the firm backing of the ruling coalition Barisan Nasional (BN), said a political analyst.

Tun Abdul Razak Chair and Visiting Professor in political science at the Ohio University in the United States, Prof Dr Jayum Jawan, said it was clear that Najib still enjoyed the support of Members of Parliament (MPs) from UMNO and other BN component parties.

"Najib should not worry about it as the numbers backing him has not shrunk as of now. BN now has more than 130 seats in the Dewan Rakyat and so far, none of them have resigned from their parties.

"BN MPs must vote in favour of BN, hence there's nothing for Najib to fear - unless he suspects that some MPs may break ranks and side with the opposition. But then, such things rarely happen," he told Bernama.

It has been reported that the leaders of opposition parties were considering tabling a motion of no-confidence against Najib at the Dewan Rakyat, which will reconvene on Oct 19.

On Tuesday, however, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said there was no provision in the Parliament Standing Orders that allow an MP to move a motion of no-confidence against the Prime Minister.

He said the Standing Orders came under Article 62 of the Constitution and that it was Parliament which had the right to make its own procedures.

Jayum, who is also a senior professor at Universiti Putra Malaysia, said even though some BN MPs may feel dissatisfied with the coalition, they have chosen to remain members of their respective parties.

"Hence, their dissatisfaction or grievances cannot be taken into account as long as no action is taken by them. Some of them, perhaps, have been vocal and have openly expressed their feelings... but when it comes to action (to support or leave the party) their decision to remain (BN MPs) is more about loyalty to the coalition," he added.

He also said that the opposition's plan to move a no-confidence motion against Najib was merely a political game played by certain individuals who were out to destabilise the BN.

"BN MPs should not feel unduly pressured by the demand made by the opposition and Najib's detractors.

"By right, government MPs should show their support for the Prime Minister through a vote of confidence in Parliament. This will put paid to talk that Najib and his government has lost support (of the MPs)," he said.

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