

Time to attack, Najib tells pro-govt BN social activists
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Prime Minister says BN has been too long in defensive mode and social media activists should go on the offensive now to ensure government retains Putrajaya.

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Najib Razak said it is time for pro-government Barisan Nasional (BN) social media activists to go on the offensive in cyberspace to defend the government and help them retain Putrajaya.

The prime minister said he was confident of the role played by pro-BN government activists as they wanted to be seen as nationalists in the new battlefield.

“We have long been in defensive mode. Enough. It is now time to attack!” Najib said in a post on his blog najibrazak.com titled “2017 Social Media Activists Assembly”.

Najib said today’s battlefields had changed and were no longer physical or face-to-face but in cyberspace.

He gave the example of the previous general election in which the BN government was exposed to attacks without any cyber army to retaliate, but today many activists were loyal cyber commanders ready to fight for BN government policies.

The Prime Minister, however, reminded all social activists to hold on to three basic principles in the battle.

Firstly, he said they needed to avoid internal feuds among themselves and to be committed in the struggle to uphold the BN government.

Secondly, to expand the cyber network so that messages were delivered to the people more effectively.

The third principle was that they should learn from what happened in the previous general election.

“We must ward off in our responses and not to be trapped as happened on polling day in the 13th general election in which the opposition disseminated false news that we were bringing in voters from Bangladesh to vote and that we created blackouts in certain places to manipulate votes.

“All these stories were preposterous but many were taken in by such news which did affect voters and the election,” he said.

Najib said he expected the opposition to use the same dirty tactics in the next general election as the opposition believed, "If you cannot convince them (voters), confuse them".

The dirty tactics of the opposition, he said clearly showed that if they could not sway voters with their empty or sweet promises, their modus operandi was to confuse the people and create disbelief and anger against the BN government.

The Prime Minister described pro-BN government activists as loyal commanders in cyberspace who would readily defend BN policies and repel all lies played up by the opposition.

"Insya-Allah with such a fighting spirit and unity, we can obtain a bigger win in the 14th general election and Putrajaya will remain in the hands of Barisan Nasional," he said.

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