

30 JAN 2004

Najib-Petaling Street

NAJIB ATTENDS CNY OPEN HOUSE AT "CHANGED" PETALING STREET

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Petaling Street, which is popularly known as the China Town of Kuala Lumpur, is now a place for all races which all Malaysians can enjoy.

Recalling his childhood days, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak remembered that at one time, the Malays used to fear walking along Petaling Street.

"But all that has changed. Today, Petaling Street is safe for all races in this country....Tonight, I can proudly say that Petaling Street is definitely our heritage, our culture...and we want to showcase it to the whole world, particularly to the tourists," said the Deputy Prime Minister.

Najib said this to thousands of Malaysians and foreigners who had gathered for Kuala Lumpur's Chinese New Year Open House at Petaling Street tonight.

He attributed the foundation of Malaysia's political harmony and stability to its far-sighted leaders.

He said Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj had been the founding father, while the following leaders like Tun Abdul Razak Hussein had brought further development and Tun Hussein Onn had brought stability.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad brought Malaysia to the forefront of developing countries.

Malaysia's new Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he said "is committed to ensure that Malaysians all have the chance to be well educated, to lead a healthy lifestyle, to work hard and to earn good money and to contribute to our country's success and prosperity."

"The Government of Barisan Nasional is a government that is fair to all races. We want each and every one of you to contribute to the success, to the well-being and to the future of Malaysia."

"We consider differences between our cultures, between our practices, between our religions, not a liability but an asset," the Deputy

Prime  
Minister said.

This diversity would enable Malaysians to lay a firm foundation and to move forward to achieve greater success in the future.

Also present were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Mohmad Shaid Mohd Taufek, several Cabinet Ministers and foreign diplomats who witnessed the tossing of Malaysia's longest "yee sang", stretching over 200 metres along Petaling Street.

Malaysia Book of Records managing director and founder Datuk Danny Ooi presented a certificate to the mayor for human achievement in the food and beverage category in the 2004 Edition of the Malaysia Book of Records.

The event was organised by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Fattuah Group of Companies in the "new look" Petaling Street.

Meanwhile, Mohmad Shaid in his speech said the upgrading of Petaling Street would be completed within one or two more months.

City Hall also plans to upgrade Jalan Masjid India and Jalan Melayu and is considering building a Little India.

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