

Najib to aid Pekida in return for election support
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak vowed to assist the Malaysia Islamic Missionary and Welfare Association (Pekida) to strengthen itself, after receiving their pledge of allegiance to him in Shah Alam today.

"Thank you for the pledge, I was touched... Allah willing, I will help Pekida!" thundered the Umno president in front of more than 2,000 Pekida members at the Shah Alam Polytechnic hall, to their resounding cheers.

However, in return he asked that Pekida be ready to help him secure the victory of the present government in the coming 13th general election.

"Pekida must be ready to defend our administration. We cannot allow the Malays diinjak-injakkan (to be stepped upon) on our own land," he warned.

Najib also acknowledged that Pekida members were of great use to him personally in his own constituency and the uniting force that could ensure the interest of the Malay Muslims is safeguarded.

"I myself know that there are a lot of Pekida members in my own area. I know... I know (what they do)," he said.

His assurance came after Pekida president Jamaluddin Yusof asked Najib to consider approving the NGO's proposal to build a college in Malacca.

Jamaludin had also led the nearly 12,000 Pekida members gathered - the 2,000 in the hall and 10,000 others in tents outside - in an oath-taking ceremony pledging their allegiance to Najib personally and the current administration in general, in the face of the coming general election.

Earlier, Pekida's deputy president had openly asked the prime minister to contribute to the movement's cooperative funds to "alleviate the burdens" and assist its ayahandas (godfathers) and adik-beradik (lieutenants).

Najib was attending the 'meet the PM' session organised by the NGO, which boasts some two million members nationwide.