

Najib invited to Dong Zong CNY open house

MalaysiaKini.com

February 8, 2013

By Hamzah Nazari, The Malay Mail

A hardline Chinese education group is warming up considerably to Prime Minister Najib Razak and is inviting him to a Chinese New Year open house on Feb 17.

The rare move by Dong Zong, the United Chinese School Committees Association of Malaysia, often dubbed the Perkasa of the Chinese community, is seen as a huge step towards enhancing its relations with the government.

Perkasa, or Pertubuhan Pribumi Malaysia, is a Malay rights non-governmental organisation.

This is the first time in the last 50 years that the leader of the country has been officially invited to attend a Dong Zong event.

Even more significant is the fact that the reception is taking place just before the expected general election in the next few weeks.

The open house, from 10am-3pm will be held at the Dong Zong Higher Learning Centre which is located along Jalan Bukit in Kajang, Selangor.

The premier's attendance is tipped to be a major breakthrough towards fostering better ties not only with Dong Zong, but other similar associations within the Chinese community.

Najib is expected to be the star attraction at the event, to be attended by 2,000-3,000 guests.

It was reported in a Chinese daily yesterday that in Johor Baru, 85 Chinese-based organisations came forward to express their support for the premier to attend the open house and said they looked forward to meeting him.

- The Malay Mail

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/221071>