

## **PM dishes out RM4mil to Sikhs**

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**By Koh Jun Lin**

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has announced RM3.84 million in total allocations for 10 Sikh groups in conjunction with today's Vaisakhi (Sikh harvest festival) celebration.

These are for various purposes, including the construction of new gurdwara (Sikh temples) in Bayan Baru, Subang and Shah Alam, the extension of the existing gurdwara in Petaling Jaya, where the donations were made, and for research on Sikh history, among others.

Najib said he hoped the government's past contributions to the Sikh community and the new announcements would help build trust between the two bodies.

"I do not want to conduct this (ceremony) as a political ceramah, but I cannot resist the temptation to just remind all of you how important it is to support the BN government.

"(It is a) BN government, which I have the honour and privilege of leading, that cares for all Malaysians, and it is a government that can deliver.

"So believe in us. Base your trust in us. We will lead you to a better and more prosperous Malaysia," he said in concluding his speech.

Najib also boasted the government's past contributions to the Sikh community in his speech, listing feats such as upgrading a Sikh crematorium in Jalan Loke Yew, Kuala Lumpur, appointing Sikhs to top civil service posts, and giving the Malaysian Gurdwara Council its own building in Sentul.

The Malaysian Gurdwara Council was the largest recipient of funds in today's announcement, totalling RM1.69 million.

"With this financial assistance, I hope all gurdwara throughout the country can be maintained properly," he said.

Among the VIPs present were Najib's wife Rosmah Mansor, caretaker Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Koh Tsu Koon, and MIC chief G Palanivel.

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