

Najib: I'm here for Permata, not Rosmah
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has emphasised the importance of the Permata programme, indicating that he chose to attend the Permata International Conference not because of his wife Rosmah Mansor, who is the patron, but due to its significance.

"I could choose not to come to this function but I decided to come, not because of my wife, but because of the Permata programme," he said when officiating at the conference at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in Kuala Lumpur this morning.

Rosmah, who conceived the Permata programme, was also present.

Najib said he wanted the Permata programme to be expanded nationwide through the setting up of more centres and education programmes.

The prime minister said this would ensure the early childhood education programme, which started out in 2006, could reach the grassroots level.

"I want to see more private sector and NGO involvement in the execution of this initiative," he added.

Najib said children are considered the most valuable gift, therefore it is essential to ensure that they have a bright future by providing opportunities for them to develop their talents.

He added that this is also in line with the philosophy of the Permata programme which appreciates the value of children and strives to ensure none are left behind.

The three-day conference is themed 'Children Beyond Tomorrow', combining all branches of the Permata programme including Permata Negara, Permata Pintar, Permata Seni, Permata Insan, Permata Remaja, Permata Kurnia and Permata Children's Specialist Hospital.

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