

**Najib down with chicken pox**  
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Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has been advised to rest at home and avoid all public and official functions following medication as a result of early signs of chicken pox, it was announced tonight.

NONEHis media adviser, Jalaludin Bahaudin, said in a statement issued to Bernama that the prime minister began to feel unwell and subsequently developed rashes, muscle aches and joint pains on the last day of the Asean summit and related summits in Hanoi.

"On arrival in Kuala Lumpur today, he showed early signs of chicken pox and was immediately started on appropriate treatment. As medication was started early, the prime minister has responded well," he said, adding that Najib's personal physician had advised the prime minister to rest at home and avoid all public and official functions.

"The prime minister apologises for any inconvenience caused," Jalaludin added.

Najib woos Indian community

Meanwhile Najib Tun Razak said today the government, through the Cabinet Committee on the Indian Community and the Special Task Force on Implementation, is giving detailed attention to several serious problems faced by the Indian community as well as several services required by them.

The problems included those who had no birth certificate and identity card, welfare contribution, job opportunities, the lack of microcredit loans and the problems of Tamil schools, he said in his speech in conjunction with the 1Malaysia Deepavali Carnival at Jalan Tengku Kelana, Klang tonight.

The text of his speech was read by his wife, Rosmah Mansor.

Najib said, "The BN government is adopting the approach of getting close to the people to resolve their problems. We no longer wait for you to come to Putrajaya, in fact, we are committed to bringing Putrajaya to you."

He said a quicker way of resolving these problems was being identified and implemented through the initiatives of the government agencies and non-governmental organisations from the Indian community.

"This clearly shows the determination and commitment of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in tackling the challenges faced by all Malaysians regardless of race.

"Meanwhile, I wish to reiterate that Malaysia is our country or in other words 'Namathu Naadu'.

"Every individual born on Malaysian soil are Malaysian citizens and not immigrants," he said.

He said those coming to this function could see for themselves today that in the Jalan Tengku Kelana area, however, the concept of solidarity and unity between the multi-racial society had already been practised.

"In the Klang town area, we can see a mosque and a temple, and across the bridge, there is the Chinese community. This is the Malaysian way of life practised from generation to generation and this is also the way of life that is capable of continuing the 'Ore Malaysia' concept (1Malaysia in Tamil)".

Najib also said that those who gave the impression that the Indian community was backward were wrong.

He said that he could see from all angles that many Indian families and individuals were working hard to succeed. They were also prepared to make sacrifices for their children's education.

At the function, Rosmah, who represented the prime minister, launched the 1Malaysia Deepavali Carnival which began at 2.30pm.

Brickfields makeover costs 3.5mil

While in Kuala Lumpur, the second and final phase development of Little India in Brickfields costing RM35mil is expected to be completed latest by May next year.

Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin said it will be fully borne by Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) while the ministry will repair roads and walkways.

"It is MRCB's social corporate responsibility," he said after presenting aid to 215 people to mark Deepavali at Sri Muthu Mariaman temple in Pantai Dalam here today.

First phase of Little India costing RM17mil was completed in Dec and opened by the prime minister and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh (left and centre respectively, in main photo) on Wednesday.

- Bernama

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