

Weed out sham charities, says Najib

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PETALING JAYA: Sham charitable organisations must be punished as their actions have tainted the good work of genuine charitable bodies, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said last night.

He expressed concern over unscrupulous parties exploiting good Samaritans who were keen to help those in need.

"This phenomenon is really unfortunate and despicable," he said at the SP Setia Foundation charity dinner 2007 at a hotel here.

Present were Najib's wife Datuk Seri Rosmah Mansor, foundation chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Raymond Tan, SP Foundation trustee Tan Sri Zaki Azmi and SP Setia Berhad group managing director Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin.

Najib said culprits who used charity to cheat others should be punished to act as a deterrent.

"Efforts must be continued to weed out these people," he said.

The deputy prime minister praised the foundation for its charitable work.

Its adoption programme providing educational opportunities to poor children, said Najib, would bring immense benefits to nation-building.

"We must nurture those who can think outside the box. It is not about giving money but steering the children, their parents and the community to become better citizens," he said.

The dinner raised RM5.8 million which would be used to fund the foundation's charity projects and welfare programmes.

A total of 2,300 children from 119 primary schools in seven states as well as 130 secondary students have benefited from this programme.

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