

Najib: Don't exploit charity

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Opportunists abusing public sympathy

PETALING JAYA: The cause of charity should not be exploited, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that of late there had been a spate of exposes on sham charitable organisations exploiting the sympathy of people to raise funds from the community in the name of charity.

He described as “unfortunate and despicable” that people could abuse contributions raised through charity.

“Life is not just about being opportunistic. We must also repay society and the nation,” he said.

“Those responsible (for abusing charity) will be punished.

“We will not be able to weed out all the bad apples, so the public must be cautious when making donations to charitable causes,” Najib said in his speech at the SP Setia Foundation

Charity Dinner held at a hotel here last night.

He commended SP Setia's unwavering efforts in helping the unfortunate.

“SP Setia is a good example of a trustworthy non-profit organisation that has built up their name in the community in helping to improve the welfare of society,” he said.

The foundation raised RM5.8mil by holding the dinner.

SP Setia Foundation chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said the foundation started eight years ago and had sponsored a total of 2,300 children from 119 primary schools in seven states.

Other causes funded by the foundation included the resettlement of orang asli at Bukit Serok, Pahang, donating to last year's Johor flood victims and donations of Braille equipment to St Nicholas Home in Penang, he added.