

Najib: 50th Merdeka Day should be extraordinary

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians should celebrate the 50th Independence Day with fire in their hearts.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said next year's Merdeka Day should mark a new beginning for Malaysians.

"The Independence Day should not be celebrated just like all the ones we have celebrated before.

"It should be extraordinary, as Malaysians should endeavour to savour the true meaning of independence and the nation's vision."

He said Malaysians should try to be extraordinary in the New Year.

"If you are an employee, you should aim to be more productive and more disciplined.

"If you are a businessman, you should aim to expand your business.

"If you are an educationist, you should aim to be the best that you can be."

In his speech at the National Christmas Day celebration at the Putra World Trade Centre, he reminded Malaysians not to forget the less fortunate.

"We should contribute to the flood victims through all means,

be it financial, time or energy."

He also took the opportunity to wish Malaysians Selamat Hari Raya Aildiladha and Happy New Year.

The Christmas Day celebration was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

It was attended by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Sultan Mahmud and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah.

Almost 10,000 visitors thronged the halls to celebrate Christmas with their friends and families.

Also present were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister

Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and his wife Datin Seri Maznah Rais, Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek, ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili and Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Ab Hakim Borhan and Sports and Youth Minister Datuk Azalina Othman.

Hundreds of people stood in line to catch a glimpse of the new King and Queen and to shake hands with them.

This was the King's first official appearance.

The King later presented RM5,000 each to 12 welfare homes and orphanages.