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PRIME NEWS

Cyclists pedal on despite drizzle

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PATRIOTIC SPIRIT: Najib joins 10,000 in Putrajaya 1Malaysia cyclethon

PUTRAJAYA

THE drizzle did little to dampen the spirit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who looked relaxed as he cycled with his interim ministers and thousands of others at the 1Malaysia Patriotic Cyclethon here yesterday.

Clad in a white T-shirt and wearing a blue and white helmet, Najib appeared in good spirits as he exchanged banter with other cyclists during the event.

Among the cyclists were Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa.

The weather brightened as the evening wore on and at the end of the 12km route, the 10,000-strong crowd, though tired, cheered Najib on during his speech.

Najib, along with his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek also shared a light-hearted moment as they danced to

popular local song *Anak Kampung* before Najib left the venue.

Shabery said the programme ran smoothly and saw a huge turnout despite the heavy rain in the morning.

"Although it rained heavily, as well as the dissolution of parliament, the event was still successful.

"This is an unbelievable phenomenon. It is also important as there are many out there who are unaware of the beauty of Putrajaya, and this is a great way for them to discover it."

Shabery said the youths who had turned up for the programme showed their full support for the government and the Barisan National leadership.

Among the sea of bicycles, one stood out with its gleaming gold coat.

The bicycle belonged to Abdulah Thani Ibrahim, who came all the way from Kedah to show his support for Najib.

"It is an opportunity for the participants to cycle with the prime minister and to show our full support for him as the leader of our



Datuk Seri Najib Razak cycling the 12km route in the 1Malaysia Patriotic Cyclethon in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Effendy Rashid

country," said Thani, a member of Kelab Basikal Tua Alor Setar.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Syafriz Takiyuddin, 20, said he was more than willing to seek an authorisation letter from his university to allow him to participate in the event.

For Nazri Idris, 45, he believed

the event encouraged patriotism that should be instilled in society.

Nazri, an accounts assistant with Putrajaya Corporation, said the event allowed people to remember the fallen heroes who defended the country during the recent Lahad Datu intrusion.