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PRIME NEWS



Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, get a rousing welcome from the younger generation on arrival at Dewan Sri Putra, Bukit Jalil to launch the 'Suara Generasiku' mass movement. Pic by Effendy Rashid

# Barisan govt is one for the youth, says Najib

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**NEW APPROACH:** PM launches Suara Generasiku mass movement to engage youth

**AHMAD FAIRUZ OTHMAN  
AND SYED UMAR ARIFF**  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE Barisan Nasional (BN) government is all for the aspirations of youth as it believes in engaging them and making them part of the process of nation building.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government was moving away from the usual "top-down" method of conducting youth-centric programmes because this segment of society had its own set of values and needs.

"This is the government's wish for the youth today and we do not want them to be neglected. We do not claim to know everything. That is an orthodox way which I do not agree much with.

"I do not take that approach as I am aware that the younger and new generations grew up in a certain environment, in which they have accepted external influences through cyberspace or physical means," he told a crowd of 5,000 youths during the launch of the *Suara Generasiku* mass movement at Dewan Sri Putra, Bukit Jalil, yesterday.

Youths, Najib said, had their own set of values that could no longer be ignored and they needed an outlet to properly express their thoughts and interests. Najib, who earlier walked into a hall of cheering crowd, said the younger generation formed an integral part of the nation and policies had been formulated to cater to their needs and voices.

He said this was evident with programmes such as IMalaysia People's Aid (BRIM) for youths who earn less than RM2,000, book vouchers' scheme and IMalaysia For Youth (IM4U) volunteer programme and affordable housing scheme.

"The government today is one for the youth. I am excited to see

many of the younger generation present (at the event), giving a positive response to the *Suara Generasiku* mass movement."

The *Suara Generasi* platform, which is targeted at gathering ideas from multi-racial youths in rural and urban areas, organised by the IMalaysia Youth Movement, would be a new platform for youths to contribute to nation building.

Several ambassadors for the programme have been selected for a nationwide tour to gather ideas from youths which would be developed into youth-centric policies and programmes.

"This is a platform (for youth) to express their desires and opinions in areas of economy, politics, sports, social, arts and entertainment or whatever interests them.

"Tomorrow will be a better day and it will shine brighter. That is why we do not only launch the nation's transformation policy but also the BN (manifesto) pledge as well, which also promises hope for the younger generation of today."

He also assured that the gov-

ernment would work hard to ensure a future laden with hope for every segment of society in the country.

"And that is why there is no reason for Malaysian youths today to carry out street demonstrations and make demands for a change by toppling the government. There is no reason for them to feel neglected.

"This is because as of today, they have been given the space (to have their voices heard). We have opened the democratic process, which is now more liberal. We have amended the Universities and University Colleges Act to allow students to be active in politics.

"There will also be 3.3 million job opportunities created by the BN government."

IMalaysia Youth Movement president Shahrul Nasrun Kamarudin said the *Suara Generasiku* initiative could be the largest and most influential of its kind for youth.

"This year, we propose to gather all the young talents and minds from 13 states and federal territories, leading to a final appreciation event that will see more than 250,000 youths joining our prime minister, God willing."

