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Help identify eligible voters in your areas, PM tells village heads

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KUALA LUMPUR: Village chiefs all over the country should be proactive in identifying and registering eligible voters in their kampung for the upcoming general election.

Addressing village chiefs and heads of village security and development committees (JKKK) yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak reminded them to play a role in ensuring unregistered voters in their constituencies are part of the democratic process.

"We need your help to make sure these eligible voters are on the electoral database. These new

voters are very important to the country since they are the deciding factor, the masters in determining whether the current government will stay in power," Najib said in his speech at the Putra World Trade Centre.

He added that while the government took care of the needs of village heads, they also needed to support the government's aspiration to continue its development programmes.

"You help us and we will continue to help you," he said in announcing an additional budget of RM10 million for training programmes for village heads under the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.

Najib also proposed to extend

the duration of service for village chiefs who have reached the age of 65.

Currently, he said, the policy is not to appoint those aged above 65.

"But due to the demand by certain quarters, I would like to propose that the ministry extend their services for another two terms, which is up to the age of 69," he said to thunderous applause from the 15,000 audience.

At the same event, Najib launched mobile app i-Desa which serves as a database and information services for villages nationwide.

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