

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	15 JAN 2015

Najib extends Ponggal wishes

NST - 15/1/2015

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government remained committed to transforming and making changes for the Indian community.

Delivering his Ponggal message via his blog 1Malaysia.com.my yesterday, Najib expressed confidence that the trust shared between the government and Indian community would lead to greater things.

"I am confident that we will be able to achieve remarkable outcomes and brighten the lives of those in need with the continued *nambikei* (trust) between the government and the community."

The Indian community welcomes the new year today in the month of *Thai* in the Indian calendar. The day is marked by the Ponggal festival, which celebrates the fresh harvest and bounty of nature.

"It is during this time of the year that the phrase *Thai Pirandhal Vazhi Pirakkum* is often repeated.

"Bearing a meaning that the commencement of the *Thai* month paves the way for new opportunities, the predominant sense in the Indian community is of marking a new beginning in their lives.

"I take this opportunity to extend my *Ponggal Vaalthukal* and best wishes to all Malaysian Indians and wish you every happiness and prosperity," Najib wrote.

MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, in his Ponggal message, expressed hope that this year would bring new beginnings for many people after a challenging 2014.

The environment and natural resources minister also urged the Indian community, especially those interested in business, to venture into bigger and more challenging things.

He said this was because the government was in the midst of drawing up the 11th Malaysia Plan, and that there would be many opportunities for Indians.