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Najib opens Razak Science Centre at Malvern College

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MALVERN (ENGLAND): Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak described the opening of the Razak Science Centre at the Malvern College, here, yesterday as an honour not only for him and his family alone but also for all Malaysians.

"It is an honour not only for me and my family but also Malaysians," he said in his address before jointly declaring open the centre with his younger brother Datuk Johari at the college in Worcestershire, about 220km from London.

Najib pursued his secondary education at the college from 1968 to 1971 and Johari also studied there later, reports Bernama.

Sharing his nostalgia with the Malaysian media, Najib said he went to the college at the age of 14 and that was the first time he went overseas.

"I was a shy boy and had never left Malaysia before. I really didn't know what to expect," he said.

Najib said the reason why his late father, Tun Razak Hussein, sent him there was because he did not want him to be spoilt or pampered as he (Najib) could possibly be treated differently if he studied in Malaysia.

"My father wanted me to be independent and develop my character," said Najib, adding that his father had always wanted him to be treated like any ordinary student there.

The prime minister said he managed to adapt to the situation at the college although it was a big shock for him in the early stage.

"Studying in a different environment and culture had taught me how to adapt to the situation.

"I feel equally at ease when speaking with Obama (US President Barack Obama), Cameron (British Prime Minister David Cameron) and Xi Jinping (Chinese president)," he said.

Najib said the experience had also taught him to easily adapt himself when he went to the United Nations, Buckingham Palace or long house.

Asked about his sweetest and bitter memories at the college, Najib said: "My sweetest memory was when I scored five goals during sports houses football matches and the bitter memory was when I had to sleep on a mountain during a training in winter. I could not sleep at all."

The college, founded in 1865, is an independent co-educational boarding and day school which celebrated its 150 years of establishment yesterday.

Razak Science Centre consists of 18 state-of-the-art laboratories, including a showcase laboratory and extra prep rooms.

Malvern College headmaster Antony Clark said the new facility could provide a springboard for aspiring young scientists to contribute further to national and international initiatives in years to come.