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Earn success, PM tells Malays

DIGNITY: Don't rely on rights to secure accomplishments, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak last night reminded Malays that they should not rely on their rights to succeed, but must attain success themselves to earn such recognition.

"For example, do not think that you will be awarded contracts simply because you are a Malay or Bumiputera. You must earn it. You must be a great Malay (*Melayu hebat*) and successful.

"If we get places in universities, if we become professors, entrepreneurs... those (positions) are only reserved for Malays who are great, work hard and are dignified," he said to thunderous applause from 10,000 people who gathered at the *Malam Perhimpunan Perpaduan Melayu* (Malay Solidarity Gathering) event at Putra Indoor Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

Many among the crowd wore traditional Malay outfits, including *samping* and *tanjak* (headgear), in keeping with the mood of the event.

Shouts of "*Hidup Melayu*" pierced the air, as the spirited crowd registered their approval.

Najib listed seven mandates that would ensure Malays' economic survivability and success in the future.

It includes commitment to upholding religious obligations, in



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** arriving at the **Malay Solidarity Gathering event** at Putra Indoor Stadium in **Bukit Jalil** yesterday. Pic by Aizzuddin Saad

tandem with Malays' identity as Muslims through the spirit of *wasatiyah*, or moderation.

"We want Malays to be respected, dignified and equipped with a competitive edge. We want to be pioneers in various fields globally," said Najib.

The mandates outlined were:

CHAMPIONING Islam, which is the country's official religion; **DEFENDING** the royal institution, and the special rights and privileges of Malays, as enshrined in the Federal Constitution;

PRESERVING *maqasid syariah* (religious goals) and continuing to practise moderation;

ENSURING that Malays are able to compete with other races to compete on the international stage;

TRAINING and educating Malays to be a pioneering race, to be competitive, innovative and think globally, without forgetting their roots;

HAVING a big heart and an even bigger fighting spirit, and being hardworking, honest and patriotic, while avoiding conflict among each other;

STRENGTHENING ties among family members and helping those in need.

Najib said when the Bumiputera Economic Agenda was launched two years ago as a national agenda, the government was carrying out its responsibility to facilitate economic growth for the nation's largest community.

"We want the people to see the government as the facilitator and catalyst, opening doors and giving opportunities. Only Malays with capabilities and merit can succeed."

He reminded Malays at the gathering to be proud of their achievements and endeavours.

"We gather here not as people

under pressure. We gather here tonight as successful people. Just look at the number of Malays who have succeeded as entrepreneurs, leaders of successful government-linked companies and professionals."

Najib said despite past and recent successes, the country was far from reaching its goals, and he urged people to strive, regardless of adversity.

"I admit that a lot needs to be done. I accept that we need to continue making improvements. That is why I shared the seven mandates that should be followed by all."

He later signed a *waad* (promise) that listed eight pledges made in line with the Bumiputera development agenda.

The gathering ended on a high note when Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, on

behalf of Malay leaders, went on stage to pledge the continued success of the Bumiputera agenda.

Present were Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, former inspector-general of police Tun Hanif Omar, Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang and Malay Consultative Council (MCC) secretary-general Datuk Dr Hasan Mad.

The gathering was organised by MCC in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Mara, Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera, among others. During the event, Najib witnessed the handing over of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the formation of the MCC Cooperative Bhd from Amanie Corporate Advisor Sdn Bhd to MCC.

He also received an MoU on the proposed formation of the Islamic Affairs Coordinating Ministry from MCC committee member Tan Sri Mohamed Yusof Mohamed Noor.

The gathering was a vibrant event, filled with colour, energy and music, which enthralled the crowd. The four-hour extravaganza showcased dances, poetry recitals and musical performances by the nation's most talented singers.

The highlight of the night was a performance by Najwa Latif, who belted out her hit single, *Aku*. Other artistes who made an appearance were former Akademi Fantasia participant Nadia and 1990s patriotic singer Roy.