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'Development will be inclusive'

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Short break:

Najib enjoying a coconut drink after the microcredit scheme launch in Jalan Alor, Kuala Lumpur, with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Mah Siew Keong (fourth from right), Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek (second from left) and Gerakan adviser Tan Sri Chang Ko Youn (left).



Govt to ensure fair business opportunities for all, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government is determined to ensure that development is inclusive and fair, especially to those in the lower income bracket, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

In planning the country's development agenda, he said the Government had never sidelined any group, providing business opportunities for all.

"Our policy is to ensure that development is inclusive and those who need help are given assistance accordingly, irrespective of their ethnic background," he said.

He added that both bumiputra and Chinese small and medium

businesses should make use of government assistance to get their business to grow so that they could compete even in the international market.

Najib relayed this message at two separate events yesterday - the unveiling of the Al-Ansar Bumiputra Fund and the launch of a microcredit scheme for Chinese hawkers and petty traders.

The Prime Minister told bumiputra entrepreneurs they should not settle for being in the small and medium-scale sector but aim for bigger things, urging them to use any available opportunity to take

part in bigger ventures. *

"There are many channels and platforms from which they can seek assistance to expand their business ventures.

"Use these opportunities to turn SME businesses into big corporations to explore international markets," he said.

Najib reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards the bumiputra agenda, which includes assisting businesses so they can grow and compete internationally.

The setting up of the RM200mil Al-Ansar Bumiputra Fund by Lembaga Tabung Haji was in line with the

Government's aim to empower and strengthen the economy of Muslim bumiputra entrepreneurs, he added.

At Jalan Alor - famous for its street food - Najib said the Government had allocated RM30mil for Chinese hawkers and petty traders who needed financial assistance for their businesses.

"We are aware that it is not easy for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions.

"We have such a scheme for them because we are a responsible government, committed to helping everyone, including small and medium enterprises," he added.