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Chong Wei's No. 1 in our hearts

STRONG PERFORMANCE: Chong Wei did his best and Malaysians are proud of him, said Najib and Rosmah

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THOUGH finishing second after a tough battle, Datuk Lee Chong Wei was still the number one hero in the hearts of all Malaysians.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he was very proud of the national shuttler's performance even though he did not win the coveted gold medal.

"I believe all Malaysians are as proud of him as I am. He played a great game," he said after watching the men's singles badminton final at Dataran Putrajaya here last night.

Najib was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor. Both of them were wearing the tiger-print Team Malaysia T-shirts.

Rosmah congratulated Chong Wei for his hard work, and said she believed that he had done his best to do Malaysia proud.

"I will give Chong Wei a call and give him some words of encouragement. Some of his attacks did not pull through, but that's okay, you win some you lose some. I'm sure he did his best," she said.

Also present were Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk M. Saravanan and Rio Olympics cycling bronze medallist Azizulhasni Awang.

The thousands who turned up to support the national shuttler stayed behind for the prize giving ceremony. They waved Jalur Gemilang and cheered as Lee received his third Olympics silver medal.

The crowd, together with Najib and Rosmah Mansor, had earlier watched the nerve-wracking and heart-stopping performance between Lee and Chen Long. They had waved Jalur Gemilang while chanting "Malaysia Boleh!"

Executive Midhatbadrishameeir Ahmad Salimi, 29, said he was at the square to show his support for Chong Wei.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, watching the match between Datuk Lee Chong Wei and China's Chen Long with thousands of people in Dataran Putrajaya, Putrajaya, yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

"So many people have come here for one purpose and tonight we are united as one."

Jaclyn Heng, 15, who was with her parents, said she was hoping to sing

Negaraku as it was played at the Rio Olympics in the event that Lee won.

"But what matters more is that Chong Wei defeated Lin Dan," she said.

Marketing manager Jenny Wong, 45, said Lee had performed well in the finals but attributed his second-place finish to fatigue from Friday's game against Lin Dan.