

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	30 JUNE 2016

# Training good leaders

Interns to learn ins and outs of governing a country

The star - 30/6/2016

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Decisions don't come easy for the Government – that is one of the things participants of the Perdana Fellowship programme will find out during their stint.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said there were no easy choices in government and conflicts were bound to happen no matter what the decisions were.

He cited the fuel hike as an example, where the Government would have to fork out more subsidies if it wanted to maintain a certain price.

“We also have to consider the fact that this involves public funds which can be used for education, health and so on. Those are the kinds of decisions we have to make.

“If one is not in the system, it is easy to criticise but if one is in the Government, you will probably understand that things are not as easy as it seems,” he told a group of 82 Perdana Fellows here yesterday.

Decision-making was a challenge due to Malaysia's diverse society, Najib said, adding that the Government had to consider the many cultures, races, religions and traditions.

The Perdana Fellowship, launched in 2013, is aimed at grooming graduates and undergraduates below the age of 30 for leadership roles by exposing them to government administration and running of the



**Bright young minds:** Najib meeting with participants of the Perdana Fellowship programme at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya. — Bernama

ministers' offices.

Najib said he hoped the participants would make full use of their opportunity, particularly to learn about leadership, which he said was more than about qualifications.

“Leadership is also about firmness, responsibility, commitment, understanding, resolving issues and relationships with those above you as well as your peers.

“I also hope you will use this as a platform to share your views and ideas so that the Government can improve its services to the people.

“It's all right to criticise, but your role as a citizen is more effective if you can offer solutions and fresh ideas instead,” he said.

Siti Nurliza Samsudin, who will be interning for Najib, hoped to see the more personal side of the leader.

“We only see him as the Prime Minister. I would also like to see how he is as a father, husband, son and friend,” said the 21-year-old, who is studying mathematics and economics at Warwick University.

Bernard Goh Teck Yang, 20, who will be studying law at the

University of Tasmania, was excited to be chosen to work in the Deputy Prime Minister's office.

“I want to learn the ropes from Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and I'm keen to know how difficult it is to govern the country,” he said.

Later, Najib had to cut short his programmes in Kuala Terengganu due to health reasons.

Despite his condition, he attended a breaking of fast programme at As-Salam Mosque, Batu Rakit, so as not to disappoint the 10,000-strong crowd that had braved the rain.