

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	12 JULY 2017

'1MDB PROFITS BENEFIT PEOPLE'

NST- 12/7/2017 pg. 10

Profits used for education, housing and sending people to perform haj, says Najib

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THE government has channelled a sizeable amount of profits from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to benefit the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said “hundreds of millions of ringgit” from 1MDB profits had been used for the people’s education, housing and sending

them to perform haj in Mecca.

“But, such positive functions of 1MDB are not mentioned (by its critics).

“Have faith that we are on the right path,” he said before presenting offer letters to 1,100 community leaders to perform the haj under the 2017 (PM-1MDB) Foundation Special Haj programme here yesterday.

The programme has benefited 5,711 people – comprising imam, village security and development committee heads and village

headmen nationwide – involving an allocation of RM56 million since 2011.

Najib said detractors, including a former prime minister, used 1MDB as an issue to topple the government.

He said only God could make judgement if anyone had done wrong with regards to 1MDB.

He called on those selected for the haj programme this year to pray for the wellbeing of the nation and its leaders.

He said he started the programme after seeing the strong desire of the people to perform the haj but lacked funds to do so.

“The government cares about the people’s welfare and tries to

assist within our means as this is an administration that practises inclusivity.”

Maran village security and development committee head Azman Shaari said many people were surprised when they were chosen to perform the haj this year.

“It shows the sensitivity of the government. We have been selected (under the PM-1MDB programme) and should not be unduly worried if our haj is *mabrur* (accepted by Allah).

“It is not for people to decide on this (*mabrur* status), except by Allah. What we should focus on is to pray that Allah accepts our prayers,” he said.