

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	19 JULY 2017

ASSURANCE TO COMMUNITY

# Najib: I accept Indian Muslims as Bumiputeras

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NST-19/7/2017

**KAJANG:** Malaysian Indian Muslims have always been acknowledged as Bumiputeras.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in stressing this, said the community did not need to worry about its Bumiputera status.

"I accept Indian Muslims as Bumiputeras. However, we have to study how we can better implement it in terms of administration or whether we should make an official declaration on their status."

Najib said this at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house celebration with the Indian Muslim community here last night.

The event was attended by some 20,000 people at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang.

It was organised by 131 Indian Muslim non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Najib said the government would look into a request from the community to set up a centre to cater to its needs.

"We will have to discuss with community heads on the suitability and proposal."

He acknowledged the community's contribution to the nation's economic growth, especially in the food and beverage sector, as well as other sectors, such as finance, particularly in foreign currency trading.

"The contribution of Indian Muslims to the country is highly appreciated."

He said the community continued to evolve and this could be

seen in the new generation who had gone on to become accountants, lawyers and engineers.

"Despite going through various changes, the community's support for the government did not diminish and remains strong."

The prime minister said he was touched by the presence of so many Indian Muslim NGOs and families at the event and it showed their continued support for his leadership and the Barisan Nasional government.

"I want to make Malaysia a developed country, which is among the top 20 countries in the world. For this, I need Indian Muslim support in the 14th General Election."

Najib said this vision was only possible if he was given the mandate.

"We are an inclusive government that always prioritises the people and the nation.

"If you want the government to transform the country, all communities, including Indian Muslims, will need to support BN."

Najib also announced that about 10,000 Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Association members had agreed to provide up to 20 per cent discount to the disabled people, 10 per cent discount to students, and five per cent for Friends of the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism card holders.

Present was the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin.

*The contribution of Indian Muslims to the country is highly appreciated.*

**DATUK SERI NAJIB RAZAK**  
Prime minister