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# Najib: Welfare of the poor a priority

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'Govt wants to ensure those from lower income bracket are not cast aside'

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**KAMUNTING:** Programmes for the poor and those from the lower income bracket show how concerned the Government is in helping the bottom 40% household group (B40), said the Prime Minister.

Speaking to the crowd at the Jom Bantu Rakyat and Ziarah Ramadan programme in Taman Mewah here, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the country did not practise "open capitalism" as he did not want the "rich to get richer".

"The Government interferes

because the administration wants to make sure that people from the lower income bracket will not be cast aside. We want to build our economy constructively.

"Our aim is not to widen the income gap. You can see how successful our programmes are and it also shows that the Government looks after the welfare of the people all the time," he said yesterday.

Describing the Jom Bantu Rakyat programme as a great initiative, Najib said he hoped to see this having a wider reach and many more poor Malaysians benefiting from it.

"Today, we helped two families in Kg Pak Dollah in Kamunting. We

hope to see this in other states," he said.

He also criticised the Opposition for promising to abolish the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) when their own group was not even stable.

"You don't administer a country when you don't have any understanding with your coalition members. The Opposition doesn't have that at all.

"The reason why we are in power is because our coalition members have great cooperation and understanding," he said.

Many people, he said, were also not aware that Tabung Haji had contributed a lot, adding that a

large number had received aid from the foundation.

"No one is misusing the funds in Tabung Haji. The Opposition is just coming up with slanderous remarks," he said.

Najib said he was also one of the five leaders chosen to address a recent summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, against global extremism and terrorism.

"It is an international recognition for a country to talk on such a stage. Also, on Tuesday evening, Turkey's president (Recep Tayyip Erdogan) called me to ask what could be done to solve the recent Middle East crisis.

"It shows that we are valued by

many nations. India, China and other countries are looking up to us," he said.

Later, at the SJK(T) Taman Kaya project site, Najib urged the Indian community to support the Barisan Nasional government to ensure the full implementation of the 10-year Malaysian Indian Blueprint.

Najib, who launched the blueprint in April, said it was important for the community to make the right choice in the coming general election.

He later announced that the Education Ministry had set aside RM7.8mil to build the Tamil school in Taman Sungai Emas.