

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	17/09/2017D

PATRIOTIC ASSEMBLY

# PM: WE WANT CHINESE COMMUNITY TO SUCCEED

Govt will continue moderate and inclusive policies, says Najib

FERNANDO FONG  
KUALA LUMPUR  
kee.soon@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he was fully aware of matters important to the Chinese community.

"I know what you want — economic wealth and quality education. But, you require peace, harmony and stability before achieving that, and a government that is fair to you.

"That is why we are a moderate government committed to peace and mutual harmony," he said at the Chinese Community Patriotic Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

More than 15,000 people at-

tended the event organised by MCA in conjunction with Malaysia Day.

Among those present were MCA president Datuk Seri Liew Tiong Lai, his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong and badminton champion Datuk Lee Chong Wei.

Najib described the Chinese community as patriotic citizens who deserved due recognition for their continuous contributions to the country.

"That is why we want the Chinese community to succeed. We will continue the moderate and inclusive policy in being progressive and fair."

As for the opposition, Najib said it tended to find it difficult to manage states, as seen in the recent Penang floods.

He lambasted the Penang government for spending RM300 million on a feasibility study for a development project instead of flood mitigation.

He expressed his wish for a strong representation of the Chinese community among Barisan

Nasional lawmakers in Parliament.

"You know what's good for you, You know the reality is that we can't do it alone (in leading the country) as we are a multiracial society."

He announced the government's preparedness to approve more Chinese vernacular schools, especially in new growth areas.

On another note, he reminded the people that there was so much to look forward to in the development of the country, such as the Mass Rapid Transit rail system, River of Life project, Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail, Pan-Borneo Highway, Bandar Malaysia and Tun Razak Exchange.

"Our success is recognised by the world, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Moody's Investors Service."

He lamented that when he brought back RMI44 billion in investments from China, the opposition accused him of "selling out" the country's sovereignty.

He said it seemed like the opposition was being selective in its

criticism, and that there were no attacks against former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Look East Policy.

"When the Look East Policy was implemented by Dr Mahathir, no one made a fuss that the country is being sold to Japan and South Korea."

He said trade deals with China had benefited Malaysia tremendously as it provided the country with a huge export market.

Furthermore, he said, Chinese tourist arrivals were expected to grow to three million this year from 2.3 million last year.

He said the East Coast Rail Link was a game changer for the east coast of the peninsula, and that the country was given a loan at only 3.25 per cent interest from China Exim Bank, with a moratorium period of seven years.

He said 30 per cent of contracts for the project were reserved for Malaysian companies.

"Do not criticise blindly, as the opposition will always try to twist facts against the government. They will try to confuse the people if they can't convince them."

NST-17/9/2017 19.6