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Najib: Chinese community helps advance economy

SERDANG: The Chinese community has been invaluable in pushing forward the Malaysian economy, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"As the Government, we have always recognised the contribution of the Chinese community in the economic development of Malaysia," he said.

The majority of successful Chinese entrepreneurs and businesses in the country, he added, come from the Hokkien community.

"I believe 80% of the top 10% entrepreneurs are Hokkiens and the majority of Tan Sris in the

Chinese community are Hokkiens," he said in his speech at the 60th anniversary celebration of the Federation of Hokkien Associations Malaysia (Hoklian).

He joked that although he did not know if the Hokkiens were typically thrifty, he knew they were hard-working entrepreneurs the country could be proud of.

He said the Government would remain fiscally responsible, providing funds and incentives to private companies to encourage them to keep contributing to the economy.

"I assure you that as long as the Barisan Nasional Government stays

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in power, we will continue to act in moderation to appeal to all groups."

Najib said the Government would also maintain good ties with China.

"That is a definite reason not to vote for the Opposition ... they do not know what is good for us. Investments from China are good for us," he said.

During the event, the Prime Minister also handed out dozens of Malaysian Fujian Exemplary Leaders and Outstanding Entrepreneurs Awards to members of the Hokkien community.

One of the award recipients, IOI Corp Bhd executive chairman Tan

Sri Lee Shin Cheng, said the Fujian (Hokkien) people were known to be hardworking as their forefathers left for Malaysia hundreds of years ago and toiled to take their businesses to greater heights.

"We might be prudent but we are generous in community building, especially in building schools to ensure a highly educated society," he said.

Also at the event were Hoklian president Tan Sri Khoo Chai Kaa, Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong and Deputy Finance Minister II Datuk Lee Chee Leong.