

**Locals Hope PM's Visit Brings Development To Taiping**  
**Bernama**  
**January 14, 2012**

TAIPING, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- For the Chinese community, the Year of the Dragon to be celebrated next week according to the Lunar Calendar will bring much meaning into their lives.

The auspicious dragon is often associated with the feeling of respect, charisma, energy, kindness, friendliness, power, confidence, colour, versatility, independence and freedom.

With that, they hope the presence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor in a two-day working visit to Perak, especially Taiping, would bring new hope and energy to Taiping's development as a heritage city.

For clerk Leong Sook Mei, 39, who was around the Casual Market here this morning to see the Prime Minister up close, she was overjoyed at the presence of the country's number one leader.

"I am happy that the Prime Minister is here, especially since we are celebrating Chinese New Year next week. I hope he will continue his good work for the people and we do see that he is a leader who considers the public's feelings," she told Bernama here Saturday.

She also hoped the Prime Minister was ready to discuss complaints and problems voiced by the people during his visit.

Tan Hwa Nan, 80, a retired English teacher, said Najib's trip to Taiping gave him a chance to see the leader in person.

"I am absolutely delighted especially since Chinese New Year is next week. This is the first time I'll be seeing our Prime Minister up close," he said.

Tan, who was at the Casual Market here with his wife Chan Yee Lian, 65, a housewife, hoped Najib could give the people of Taiping new hopes for development.

"Our hope is for Taiping to be more developed in the future. Najib's presence brings cheer, good hope and blessings to the city," he added.

Meanwhile, businessman Kuan Seng Hai, 50, and his daughter Joyce Kuan Yuen Fen, 15, felt disappointed that they couldn't shake hands with the Prime Minister following the hundreds of people who thronged the premises for a glimpse of the leader.

"My daughter was excited when she found out the Prime Minister will be in Taiping. However, we have yet the chance to meet him and shake hands as the place is too crowded," he said.

He said that they were happy that the Prime Minister came to visit Taiping, adding that it would hopefully bring changes to development and local residents there.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=640114>