

Najib Shares Winter Solstice Joy With Elderly
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Joy and happiness were clearly reflected in the faces of the residents of the home for the elderly in Kampung Baru Jalan Sungai Way here when they were joined by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to celebrate the Winter Solstice celebration Thursday.

Looking cheerful in his light blue shirt and purple tie, Najib spent about 30 minutes mingling with the residents, and even took his time to enjoy a Chinese dessert known as Tang Yuan or Kueh Eeh.

The Winter Solstice, celebrated on Dec 22 annually, is a day for the Chinese to observe the beginning of winter and a reminder that another year has gone by.

According to traditional belief, one grows a year older after eating the tang yuan.

Najib's visit was more meaningful when he also donated RM100,000 for the house, occupied by about 62 elderly people.

Speaking to reporters after the visit, the prime minister's political secretary, Wong Nai Chee, said the visit was planned because of the prime minister's keen interest in Chinese culture, especially the Winter Solstice festival.

Although it was just a short visit, Najib's easy, friendly and cheerful character warmed the heart of Wong Wong Lan, who is in her 90's.

"I am so happy to meet him in person. I think he is a very nice man, friendly and handsome," said Wong, who has lived in the home for seven years.

Wong, who sat next to Najib, said: "Saya tanya perdana menteri dia suka makan kueh (tang yuan) atau tidak, tapi dia kata tak pernah makan, tapi selepas makan dia kata dia suka (I asked the prime minister whether he likes to eat the tang yuan and he said he has never eaten it, but after eating it, he said he likes it)," said Wong with a wide smile.

The Old Folks Home in Kampung Baru Jalan Sungai Way was opened by Najib's father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, on Feb 26, 1966, when he was the deputy prime minister.

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