

Both sides of political divide at PM's house
The Sun Daily
August 30, 2011
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PUTRAJAYA (Aug 30, 2011): Although they were from different sides of the political divide, this did not stop them from feasting at the same table.

Along with many Malaysians and foreigners, leaders from the opposition parties shared the festive joy with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

"It's a celebration; we are Malaysians," said Najib at his Hari Raya open house today.

He was seated with several leaders from both the ruling government and the opposition, with Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng on his right followed by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon (seated next to Lim).

Najib was seen having a casual conversation with Lim while munching on the delicacies. This attracted much attention from the guests.

To many, it was a "rare sight". Others believe there must be an "agenda" in this.

With a wide array of the local delicacies and traditional music, it was certainly a cheerful mood at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

Although the open house only began around 11.30am, people were seen walking to Seri Perdana from 10.30am, some turned up even earlier.

Traffic police were at hand to direct the crowd to make way for more cars to come in to the vicinity.

Thousands queued from the main gate leading to the main entrance of the PM's official residence to greet him.

Najib stood at the entrance of his official residence for about two hours from 11.30am to 1.30pm to receive his guests.

The mid-day heat did not stop the 100,000-strong crowd from standing in line to meet with Najib and Rosmah before feasting on the delicacies laid out.

The crowd also included foreigners working in the country and tourists.

Among the VIPs who attended were former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam. Former MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Velu and his wife Datin Seri S. Indrani were also present.

Also present were Najib's cabinet ministers.

The Sun Daily

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