

**Najib cycles with 5,000 students, gives RM15m to Penang Chinese schools**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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GEORGE TOWN, Sept 25 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak cycled seven kilometres with 5,000 Penang schoolchildren and handed RM1 million each to 15 Chinese schools here under the "1 Malaysia Charity Ride for Education 2011" today.

Some 20,000 schoolchildren greeted the prime minister on his arrival at the Straits Quay in Tanjung Tokong here, Bernama Online reported.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Penang Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman were present.

Najib recounted before flag-off that the programme reminded him that he last rode a bike when he was a child fifty years ago, when he rode from the prime minister's residence (his father was prime minister then) at Perdana Lake Gardens to the National Mosque to buy nasi lemak.

The prime minister said lightheartedly he practiced for the event by riding in the hotel lobby he was at. He said the hotel staff thought he was a little "crazy" riding the bicycle in the corridors.

Najib said the cycling programme meant a lot to him since it was in line with his 1 Malaysia concept, which cut across race and religious lines, bringing families together.

He said it was a noble cause that the programme set to collect RM15 million for 15 Chinese secondary schools, five of them private. The money came from the public and 1MDB.

The cheques were handed to SMJK Chung Ling Butterworth, SMJK Jit Sin, SMJK Chung Ling, SMJK Heng Ee, SMJK Phor Tay, SMJK Perempuan Cina, SMJK Union, SMJK Convent Dato Keramat, SMJK Chung Hwa Confucian, SMJK Sacred Heart, Chung Ling (Private) High School, Jit Sin Independent High School, Penang Chinese Girls High School (Private), Phor Tay (Private) High School and Han Chiang High School.

The event was organised by Kwong Wah Yit Poh and sponsored by 1MDB.

The prime minister also presented 5,000 bicycles at the participating students.

Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen, Dr Koh, Lim, Kwong Wah Yit Poh chairman Datuk Ong Gim Huat and Penang state executive councillors, were in attendance.

Koh, who is also Penang Barisan Nasional chairman, was unfortunately involved in a minor accident at Pantai Molek during the event.

Koh said he was not able to brake and avoid collision with two bikes which had knocked into each other in front of him.

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