

**People's Needs His And Government's Top Priority, Says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the government under his leadership would always treat the people's needs as top priority in line with the 1Malaysia concept of 'People First'.

He said it was his responsibility and the government's to be sensitive to the pressing needs of the people, such as education, healthcare and housing.

"My utmost priority is to ensure that we do our best to meet these needs," he added in his latest entry titled 'People First' in his blog, www.1malaysia.com.my Sunday.

Najib said he remembered that when his father was prime minister, he was thinking how difficult it must be for him to have the worries and burden of the people weighing constantly on his mind.

"For the past two years, I have lived through the experience myself. The environment today and challenges it poses are certainly different from my late father's time, as are the available tools and solutions. Yet, the duties of the prime minister have not changed much: it is always People First." He said to ensure that the people's needs were fulfilled, various efforts were undertaken such as setting up the 1Malaysia Kedai Rakyat, 1Malaysia People's Housing Scheme (PR1MA) and drawing up of the National Wage Consultative Council Bill which was recently passed by Parliament.

Najib said he was well aware of the increasing burden of cost faced by many Malaysians, particularly among those living in urban areas.

"I have received updates from on the ground and I have seen your comments on Facebook as well as Twitter addressed to me personally.

"This subject frequently pops up during my walkabouts and face-to-face interactions with the rakyat. While I may not have the capacity to individually improve your financial circumstances, believe me that I am doing as much as I can for as many as I can.

"Last month, I was delighted to launch the Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia, a public-private initiative to lessen the financial burden of the rakyat. In this shop, essential items are priced up to 40 per cent lower than the regular retail price.

"Beginning with one outlet, the Kedai Rakyat will eventually expand to cover other strategic locations."

On the My First Home Scheme, he acknowledged that very few schemes offered houses priced in the region of RM220,000, hence he recently announced that a scheme would be launched to build affordable homes, priced below the market rate, specifically for the scheme's target group.

He said the Perumahan Rakyat 1Malaysia scheme (PR1MA), which he would launch tomorrow would be another public-private partnership that hoped to ease the financial burden of owning a home, and allow more Malaysians to become homeowners.

On the National Wage Council, Najib said a tripartite of employees, employers and the government would sit down together to determine a fair rate for the employees and employers.

"We do not want to lose our skilled Malaysians, and we believe that this is a step in the

right direction.

"With a better pay scale, as well as a more competitive and productive work culture, I am sure Malaysians will feel more assured of their economic security in this country," he further noted in his blog.

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