

Vision 2020 'not wishful thinking'
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Najib urges Malaysians not to let opportunities to transform the nation slip away

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak called on all Malaysians to rally behind the government to help achieve the status of a developed nation by 2020.

He said the people should not let the opportunities to transform the nation slip through their fingers.

"This (to be a developed nation) is not a wishful thinking.

"Instead, it is a vision that we can attain if the people believe and support the (transformation) process," he told more than 50,000 people who turned up at the 1Malaysia Chap Goh Meh carnival at the FSG Dong Zen Temple here last night.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Gerakan president Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon, Selangor MCA chairman Datuk Donald Lim Siang Chai and Selangor Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar.

Najib also stressed on the importance of being moderate and finding common values that Malaysians of various faiths could embrace.

"Moderation also means we will not practise extremism, fanaticism and militant principles."

He said many faiths, including Islam and Buddhism, believed in moderation.

"If we can be moderate and practise these values, I believe Malaysia can continue to be peaceful and harmonious."

He also praised the unique Malaysian culture of celebrating the various festivals of different faiths, which set the country apart from the rest of the world.

"Malaysia is so unique. Which other country celebrates three celebrations back to back?

"But here, we celebrate Maulidur Rasul (the Prophet's birthday) yesterday, Chap Goh Meh today and Thaipusam tomorrow.

"It only happens here."

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