

**Chingay Procession Proves Racial Tolerance In Country - Najib
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JOHOR BA HARU, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak says the Chingay procession is proof of racial tolerance in the country.

He said it was also proof of the people's acceptance of each other and a celebration of diversity in terms of beliefs and cultures.

The procession held annually since 142 years ago saw the collaboration of five Chinese dialect groups - Hainan, Cantonese, Hakka, Teochew and Hokkein.

"I believe it will leave a big impact and respect the diversity in society, " he said at the Chingay procession of Johor Ancient Temple in Jalan Wong Ah Fook, here Sunday.

Also present was his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

Najib who witnessed the procession for the first time said that he was proud of its uniqueness.

He also confirmed that Chingay procession had been recognised as a national cultural heritage and will be gazetted soon.

Meanwhile, Johor Bahru Chinese Federation president Lim Ik Kim said the procession attracted 250,000 participants and tourists.

It also received widespread coverage from local media and those from China and Singapore.

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