

PM: 50 young footballers from Felda to train with Cardiff Football Club
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SUNGAI BULOH: Some 50 aspiring young footballers from the Felda schemes will have the chance of a lifetime to undergo a training stint in United Kingdom soon.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the youths will be selected from among Felda settlers to undergo a month of training with the Cardiff Football Club.

"This will be a thrill of a lifetime for the best of Felda young footballers and a chance for them to experience life in Cardiff while developing their football skills," he said when launching the 1Malaysia Cardiff City League here Sunday.

He expressed confidence that some of the youths selected for the trip would one day become iconic players for the nation.

He said the training stint would be fully sponsored by Felda, adding that this was in line with the efforts to develop football in the country.

"Football is enjoyed with such passion by Malaysians that even at the mamak stalls, football talk takes priority over political talk," he added.

Besides using football as a nation-building tool, he said the sport could be developed as an industry with economic spin-offs.

He cited the announcement he made on Friday when visiting Temerloh, Pahang about a RM3mil expansion project for the Temerloh stadium as an example of tapping economic spin-offs from football.

"The stadium has a 3,000 capacity and it will be able to accommodate 9,000 when expanded.

"Being a small town, the stadium and activities it will generate will become a catalyst for economic spin-offs," Najib said.

He also noted that the Government had allocated RM50mil for the development of astro-turf fields and 2,000 futsal courts to promote football as a sporting industry.

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