

**Unity Is Priceless - Najib
Bernama
January 23, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has expressed happiness at the strong unity and harmony shown by the people and leaders of various races who attended open house events in conjunction with the Chinese New Year.

Saying that unity is priceless, the prime minister said unity and harmony cannot be taken for granted and should be continuously nurtured as a celebrated tradition among Malaysians.

He also wished the Chinese community a Happy Chinese New year and expressed the hope that the year would bring about a stronger growth for Malaysia and prosperity for the people.

"According to the Chinese belief, this year is the Year of the Water Dragon and is considered good for business.

"Let's hope that this year will see the country's economy strengthening further and there will be more prosperity for the people," he said during a live telecast with RTM while attending the MCA open house at Wisma MCA, here.

Meanwhile, Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor also extend her Chinese New Year greetings to the Malaysian Chinese community, in particular Permata Negara participants and the country's women.

"I hope that they can spend time visiting their Chinese friends and strengthen the bonds of friendships among us Malaysians," she said.

Najib was greeted on arrival at the MCA open house by party president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, amid the beating of the drums and dragon and lion dance performance.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and wife Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman as well as former prime ministers Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Cabinet ministers and other BN leaders including Gerakan president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel and PPP president Datuk Seri M. Kayveas were also at the open house.

They later performed the "prosperity toss" or the mixing of the raw fish and vegetable salad known as Yee Sang, a unique feature of the celebration in Malaysia.

At the Gerakan open house at the party's headquarters in Cheras, Najib said the BN would continue with people-oriented programmes and help those in the low and medium income group.

"I hope that with these efforts, people would be able to see our success in caring for their

plights," he said in a live interview with TV3.

Asked on the support among to the Chinese community to his leadership, Najib, or affectionately known as "Ah Jib Gor" or "Brother Najib" -- the name used in his recently-launched Chinese Facebook -- said he would work harder to win their support.

"History has shown that the Chinese community has always had high confidence in the BN; only in the last general election the support had somewhat decreased. I hope that through continuous effort, we will be able to gain more support from the community," he said.

Meanwhile, Najib and Rosmah attended the open house by YTL Corporation Berhad at JW Marriott Hotel, here.

They were greeted on arrival by YTL Corporation Berhad managing director Tan Sri Dr Francis Yeoh, and executive chairman Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay.

Also present were Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, Raja Perempuan of Perlis Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, Muhyiddin and wife, as well as Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen and Melaka Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

Muhyiddin also attended an open house by Tan Chong Motor Holding at the house of its chairman Datuk Tan Heng Chew in Taman Duta.

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