

PM makes early visit to IM4U venue
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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak made an early visit to the 1Malaysia For Youth (IM4U) launch venue Sunday, mingling with the thousands of youths who turned up and checked out the various activities lined up for them at the event.

The IM4U is a Government initiative that coordinates youth volunteer activities under a single platform, ranging from helping to repair old damaged bridges in villages to conducting tuition classes for children of the urban poor.

Those who turned up early at the KLCC Esplanade situated at the shopping mall's sprawling outdoor park for the 5pm launch were pleasantly surprised when Najib turned up at 11.30am.

The Prime Minister's arrival was greeted with cheers by the youths who were decked in colourful uniforms representing the various government departments, agencies and non-governmental bodies that will be organising volunteer activities which youths can sign up for at <http://www.1m4youth.com.my>.

The agencies and departments include those under the Home Ministry, such as police, the Immigration department and police as well as those under the Youth and Sports Ministry, which is the coordinator for the IM4U programme.

Najib spent an hour greeting the youths and touring the event launchsite, with numerous booths set up throughout the sprawling venue by participating government agencies and NGOs lending a carnival atmosphere to the event.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to check out the IM4U United Against Crime Facebook page displayed on a laptop at a Rakan Muda booth. He typed a brief message in support which read, "I am proud with the support of youth in curbing crime."

Najib made a brief stop at another booth offering RM10 tickets to the Malaysia versus Manchester City football match at the Bukit Jalil Stadium on July 30, which drew a long queue of football fans. On Friday, Najib, in a posting on his Facebook page, said he had asked for 15,000 tickets to be sold at the IM4U launch at the special price, with proceeds to go to charity.

At the Putera Umno booth, Najib tried on a motorcycle crash helmet, one of many offered by the Umno movement to youths attending the event as part of its road safety programme.

He then made a painted imprint of his hand on a white banner strung up in a show of support of the 1Malaysia initiative, and checked out a martial arts performance by the Prisons Department and a live musical performance.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Razali Ibrahim said the various booths at the KLCC Esplanade offered 16 different volunteer activities which youths could sign up for.

In addition, 15 groups of youth volunteers had spread out since Sunday morning throughout the Klang Valley, taking part in various volunteer activities and later making their way to the KLCC Esplanade to attend the event launch.

Razali said a total of about 40,000 youths took part in all of the activities Sunday.

"There is a clearly a demand among our youths for volunteer activities and what we are doing is to guide them and organise the activities which they can participate in," said Razali.

Najib was accompanied during his walkabout by Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek and Deputy Ministers Datuk Razali Ibrahim and Senator Gan Ping Sieu.

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