

PM recalls childhood days with his father

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak took the time to contemplate about his childhood, a time when children never spoke unless they were spoken to and dared not defy the words of their parents.

"I was bashful with my parents and had high respect for them," the Prime Minister wrote on his blog.

"I was always wary of what I said or did to avoid hurting my father."

Najib described sweet moments between him and his father which he would cherish forever.

"I still remember when I studied abroad, at a time where there was no e-mail, SMS and social media, and had to wait for a reply.

"Whenever I wrote to him, he would definitely reply, even though he was very busy as Prime Minister and a reply might arrive only after two weeks, but a reply from him would definitely arrive," said the son of Malaysia's second Prime Minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak.

He wrote that his father was "a very subtle motivator who encouraged us to always study hard so that we could be top in our class" and would always take the time to know about their monthly achievements.

"My siblings and I never wanted to disappoint him so we always did our best and when we did not get the best position in class, the disappointment would show on his face.

"It was in this way that he taught my brothers and I not to be spoiled, not to be extravagant in our lives and to always practise a modest kind of lifestyle as well as to be considerate to other people."

Although Najib is different from his father when it comes to the way he bonds with his children, "there is still a presence of respect."

"In my relationship with my children, I see that we are able to exchange our thoughts more openly and we can hang out together and mix with one another but at the same time, they are fully aware of their respect for me as their father."

This generational change was not only on himself but on other families too in general, he said. However, when it comes to the fathers of yesterday or today, the purpose of Fathers Day remains the same.

"This is a time where we show our appreciation for the contributions and wisdom of fathers and give recognition to the new fathers for their contributions to the forming of a new generation.

"I would like to wish all fathers, a Happy Fathers Day," Najib said.

Source:

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