

Hold 1Malaysia Family Day celebrations in November, private firms urged
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KUALA LUMPUR: Private sector companies will get a 100% tax rebate on expenses to hold their 1Malaysia Family Day celebrations in conjunction with the national-level event in November, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Najib, who assumed the responsibility of the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry in April, told Members of Parliament this during Question Time, while stating that this was part of the ministry's move to further strengthen the family institution.

"I am glad to announce that November has been fixed for the national-level 1Malaysia Family Day celebrations this year.

"Private companies that hold events to mark the celebrations would be given 100% rebate on expenses incurred to organise their respective events," he said when answering a question raised by Zuraida Kamaruddin (PKR – Ampang).

He said the move was in line with the National Family Policy and the 1Malaysia Family First programme launched in June to strengthen the family institution.

He said companies offering flexible working arrangements for professional women to return to work would be given multiple tax breaks if they were involved in retraining the women.

"Incentives in the form of multiple tax breaks will be given on retraining expenses by the companies concerned beginning 2013," he said.

He added that the incentives were in relation to the "mirco-site" database to be launched by Talent Corp next month to match professional women with companies offering flexible working arrangements.

Later when opening the Ulama-Umara Secretariat (UMUM) meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, Najib said Malaysia aimed to be a developed modern Islamic nation by 2020.

He said it was part of a greater jihad to thrust the Islamic world onto the international arena.

"This major transformation is not a mere national mission, it is a jihad to boost the Islamic world," he said.

Najib also launched his book on the Islamic Agenda in National Transformation. In his 233-page book, Najib outlined 11 transformation agendas.

Najib also expressed shock that PAS had put its party before Islam by asking members to postpone the haj in anticipation of the general election.

"Answer. Which is a priority? Haj or elections?" he asked.

Najib said he would not compromise Islam when deciding on a suitable time to hold the elections.

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