

Najib Touts Values In Hockey At FIH Gala Dinner
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants more children to play hockey from a younger age and learn the values of fair play, sportsmanship, ethics and discipline that friendly competitions can bring.

The prime minister said that as a former sports minister, he had seen how team games could build young people's confidence and strengthen the bond between them.

"That's why we have spent RM9 million supporting the Malaysian Hockey Confederation's (MHC) 1Mas development programme, the brainchild of its president Tengku Abdullah (Sultan Ahmad Shah)," he said at the 43rd International Hockey Federation (FIH) Congress gala dinner, here, Friday night.

Present were his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Tengku Abdullah, Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah who is also former MHC president, and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

Najib said hockey was also viewed as a way of fostering greater equality.

Noting that players from the national women's team had won the 'Player of the Tournament' and 'Top Scorer' awards in the second round of the World League, Najib said: "They are role models for a generation of girls who will lead more active, healthier lives."

The prime minister applauded the work done by the FIH in promoting hockey.

"Our commitment is more than matched by the International Federation, and I remain impressed by the work they do to promote and develop hockey," he said.

Najib said that for his part, he would continue to ensure that hockey received the funding and support it deserved to thrive in Malaysia.

He observed that the sport had also shown the world, Malaysia's ability to host first-class events with world-class infrastructure.

"It's a legacy on which we can build in years to come as the Malaysian Hockey Confederation bids for the Men's World Cup 2018," he said.

Malaysia hosted the 1975 and 2002 World Cups, the 2010 champion trophy tournament and three Junior World Cups. It also holds the annual Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament.

Najib wished the best of luck to Tengku Abdullah on his nomination for a position on the FIH executive board.

"Should he be elected, he (Tengku Abdullah) will be a worthy representative and will bring much to the Federation," he added.

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