

We need an 'A' in happiness index, says PM
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By ONG HAN SEAN and NIK NAIZI HUSIN

PEKAN: The Prime Minister rates the nation's "happiness index" at 7.55 on a scale of 10 and declared that there was room for improvement.

[Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#) said the target was to achieve an A' in the index from the current B+'.

"As a developing country, we need to choose the best model for our growth. One of it is the conventional model which uses per capita income as a yardstick.

"However, I feel that if it is a one dimensional model then it is not accurate and comprehensive because we can be wealthy but that does not mean we are happy," he said at the launch of the 1Malaysia National Family Month here yesterday.

Likening the happiness index as another type of measurement for progress, he said this was made up of multiple components such as crime rate and pollution.

"For example, if the people are stuck in traffic all day, then that will mean a drop in happiness," he pointed out.

Najib, who is also the Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said one of the most important components in the index was that of a happy family.

"If the family is happy, then we as individuals will also be happy," he said, describing the theme of this year's celebration "The old are respected, the young loved" as fitting because it formed the core of family values.

On the Government's efforts to strengthen the family institution, Najib said policies such as maternity leave for both parents, family education programmes and the "My First Home" scheme had been introduced.

"As a continued commitment, I propose that the National Family Month be celebrated annually while private sector employers are encouraged to organise family days," he said, adding that companies would enjoy tax exemptions for holding such programmes.

Launching the [Astro](#) Kasih Knowledge Zone at the Rumah Kanak-Kanak Sultanah Hajah Kalsom in Penor, Kuantan, later, the PM advised parents to treat children with love from young.

"Don't be too harsh on them as it could reduce the feeling of love in them and affect them emotionally," he added.

The programme was a joint effort of Astro and the ministry to instil the caring spirit among the people.

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/11/4/nation/12270495&sec=nation>