

**Najib: Face-to-face interactions still the best way to to get close to people**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: For all the convenience afforded by social media, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak says it is face-to-face interactions that allow him to get close to Malaysians and translate that into initiatives which provide answers to their concerns.

He said online communication could not substitute for the strengthening of interpersonal relations through a firm handshake, and reports could not replace seeing first-hand the daily lives and living conditions of the people.

"As powerful a tool (social media) as it is though, there's still merit to meeting with the rakyat in person. I suppose you could call me a traditionalist, but I believe that certain things are best done face-to-face," he said on his 1Malaysia blogsite.

Sharing his thoughts on the topic 'Combining Technology and Commitment to Achieve Tangible Results', he said: "I listen to tradesmen and housewives tell me of their plights over coffee, from healthcare concerns to cost of living."

He said these were all passed on to the relevant departments to make the changes and provide the initiatives necessary to change their livelihoods for the better.

Najib pointed out that it was translating the effort of listening to producing solutions that mattered most.

"In response to the makciks' concerns about rising cost of living, we've brought to you the Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia. In response to those who require regular treatments for their condition, we've brought to you Klinik 1Malaysia.

"And we continue monitoring your thoughts and views online for feedback. The Budget 2013 exercise included many valid points raised by the people," he said.

Najib admitted that with the various social media tools at hand, he was able to accomplish many things, from collecting feedback for next year's budget for Malaysia and keeping Malaysians updated on the latest government policies, to posting updates on the go.

Social media, he said, had become a convenience he could no longer do without.

"Technology has brought us far from where we once began as a country and will continue to bring us to greater heights.

But the tools at our disposal require commitment and dedication from its users to produce the desired results," he said.

Najib added that the BN government had succeeded thus far through putting its words to action for the good of Malaysia, and would continue with its track record in providing tangible results for the people. - Bernama

