

70,000 at PM's open house
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PEKAN: It was a carnival-like atmosphere at Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar here yesterday when about 70,000 guests attended the open house held by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Visitors from all walks of life, including those from other states, came as early as 7am to join the annual programme and get the golden opportunity to greet the prime minister and wife.

Present were Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, Tengku Puan Pahang Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

Najib's children -- Nooryana Najwa and Norashman -- were also present at the function.

Zila Adnan, 35, said she left her home in Sungai Buloh with three children at 6am to ensure that they could reach the venue on time.

"My children were eager to come here after they saw the prime minister making the invitation on television.

"They are so happy as they can also enjoy some of the local delicacies such as rendang Pahang."

Ahmad Salleh, 45, of Kampung Soi in Kuantan, said the programme allowed him to meet many of his relative and old friends.

"Some of them live in other states and we make it a point to meet at the prime minister's open house here every year," said Ahmad, who was grateful to receive kuih raya as souvenir at the function.

The visitors enjoyed various types of food and drinks served by 150 food operators at 200 stalls.

Among the popular dishes were laksa Pahang and the popular dessert puding raja (royal pudding).

They were also entertained with cultural shows and performances by local artistes, including Noraniza Idris, Nassier Wahab, Datuk DJ Dave and Datuk Hattan.

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