

**Najib compares BN with Taoism in bid for Chinese votes**  
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IPOH, April 9 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak contrasted Barisan Nasional's (BN) brand of moderation today to the Taoist way of life as he moved in on the Perak Chinese vote, promising fairness to all races should his government be given the chance to rule again after Election 2013.

He pointed out that practising moderation is a central theme to Taoism, much like it is in BN's power-sharing formula, where all races of the country are equally represented under a single umbrella.

"Moderation is also the key to the survival and success of our nation," Najib (picture) told a crowd of more than 1,000 representatives from Chinese guilds and non-governmental organisations at a special luncheon in the Tow Boo Keong Taoist temple hall here.

The prime minister, who earlier expressed surprise at the large crowd that turned up for the function, said his government will ensure that the rights of the Chinese would be taken care of.

Najib said that moderation is the key to achieve this, pointing out that preserving Malay rights does not mean sidelining that of the other races'.

"We cannot see this as a zero-sum game. We cannot say that if we help the Chinese, the Malays will lose out or that if we help the Malays, the Chinese would lose out.

"There is plenty of wealth and we can help all... so if you support BN, all Malaysians will benefit," he said.

The Perak Chinese are largely considered staunch and traditional supporters of the DAP, giving some 70 per cent of their votes to the opposition party during the last general election in 2008.

Much like how the Malays here are supportive of BN and its lynchpin Umno, the Chinese community is expected to be the ruling pact's hardest nut to crack when Election 2013 arrives.

Najib appeared to acknowledge this, saying in his speech here that he has been asking himself what it is that the Chinese community really want from his government.

He noted that in his travels across Malaysia, the growing support from the Malays and the Indians towards BN has been a noticeable trend, but this was not observed among the Chinese.

"So I ask myself — what do the Chinese really want?" he said.

"They want a government that is fair and just to all," he answered.

"I believe this, we can deliver. We can be fair and just to all without taking the rights away from the Malays and the others.

"The rights of the Malays and the others will remain but we can be fair and just to the Chinese," he said.

Malaysia's longest-serving former prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was also at the luncheon to lend his support to Najib.

He attributed the strength of the BN coalition, which he has taken to calling a "kongsi", to founding father Tunku Abdul Rahman's vision.

"Tunku felt that only if the Malays, Chinese and Indians cooperate can this country become stable and develop," he said in a speech addressing the crowd.

"Every race must be prepared to make some sacrifices so that the sharing becomes very real and very productive," he added.

He urged for continued racial cooperation, saying that Malaysia has enough riches for all.

"What I would like to say and remind everyone is that for as long as the Malays, Chinese and Indians work together, then the country will remain stable and every one of us will get something for ourselves," he said.

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