

GE13: No community will be ignored under 1Malaysia, says Najib

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians of all races and religions, no matter how small the community, will benefit from the Government, said the Prime Minister when announcing an allocation of RM3.8mil for the Sikh community.

During his visit to the Gurdwara Sahib here, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government believed the 1Malaysia concept which upheld the principle of inclusiveness.

“No community, whether big or small, will be marginalised or left behind,” he said in his speech during the Vaisakhi festival celebration here.

He said the Government had distributed RM21mil to the Sikh community over the past five years through various NGOs and religious groups.

Najib also announced an allocation of almost RM4mil for various groups from the Sikh community, including RM1.69mil for the Malaysian Gurdwara Council this year.

The Sikh Naujawan Sabha and the Khalsa Diwan will receive RM800,000 and RM500,000, respectively, while the Gurburi Foundation, an orphanage, was promised RM100,000 to set up new premises in Bentong.

The Petaling Jaya Gurdwara Sahib was promised RM100,000 to build a multipurpose hall.

Earlier during his speech, Najib joked that he had always wondered why the Sikh community seemed to be “taller and bigger” than everyone else.

“I concluded that it was because of the wheat-based diet, like the chapati.

“I tried to persuade my kids to eat more chapati so they would grow taller and bigger, but I failed.

“They seemed to prefer to eat nasi lemak and other local favourites,” he told the crowd.

Also present at the Gurdwara were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Senator Datuk Jaspal Singh.

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