

Najib sends new year greetings
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SHARED FUTURE: PM assures Indian community more is being done to help them

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said festivals in Malaysia were occasions for the renewal of faith and friendship among multi-racial Malaysians where family and friends come together to celebrate.

In his new year message to the Tamil and Sikh communities, he said many in the Indian community would be ushering in their New Year this month, with the Tamils and Malayalees celebrating "Putthandu" and "Vishu" respectively.

"The Telugu community had just ushered in their new year or 'Ugadhi', while the Sikh community will mark the auspicious day of the birth of 'Khalsa' by celebrating 'Vaisakhi'," he said in his latest posting on his 1Malaysia Blog yesterday.

The Tamil, Sikh and Malayali communities in Malaysia and worldwide celebrate their respective new year's today, while the Telugu community celebrated their new year on Thursday.

"While celebrating the respective communities' new year, Malaysians should also take a moment to honour and remember the country's heroes who fell in Sabah defending Malaysia," Najib said.

"Any new beginning is also a time for us to look back and reflect on our own lives and be grateful for all the blessings we have received in this land that we all call our home.

"Let us dedicate ourselves to work for a better nation and to work harder to improve our lives and the lives of generations to come."

Najib said in its determination to achieve progress, the government would double its efforts and continue to be a real partner of the Indian community.

"Together, we will deliver results that will improve the quality of life of all Malaysians, regardless of race. It is not important where we came from.

"What is important is where we are going, together. We look forward to a brighter future where everybody has a place under the sun.

"All who need help will not be left behind, this is my commitment."

Najib said the government had constantly engaged directly with the Indian community and implemented various programmes to transform the community.

The government was also committed to delivering all its promises to the Indian community as it had been doing over the last four years.

"The results are already being seen and there is more that needs to be done in what we call a work-in-progress.

"The government will not waiver from its purpose to ensure that all communities can stand on their own feet and be counted as equal partners in nation building.

"In our dream to build a future full of hope for our families, our communities and our country, let us continue to build the partnership between the government and the community based on trust, or nambikei."

Najib added that he alone could not build such a future and urged every one to walk with him in the journey of transformation.

"We have lived to see in one generation, how our nation has developed by leaps and bounds.

"This should give us confidence when facing our shared future. I believe that Malaysia's best times are ahead of us.

"In the spirit of 1Malaysia, I take this opportunity to call upon fellow Malaysians to join me in wishing our Indian friends a Happy New Year and a Happy Vaisakhi to our Sikh friends."

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