

Najib Takes Part in 'KL Car-free Morning Campaign

Bernama

4 May, 2014

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Sunday joined about 10,000 cyclists in the fifth KL Car-Free Morning Campaign in an effort to reduce carbon emission in the capital.

Donning cycling apparel, the prime minister cycled together with the participants for three km through Jalan Bukit Bintang, Jalan P Ramlee, Jalan Raja Laut, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Jalan Dang Wangi and Jalan Ampang starting at 7am.

Apart from cycling, the participants, some with their families, rode on skateboards or jogged along roads that were kept free from traffic for the monthly event.

Shortly after he finished the ride, Najib mingled with local and foreign participants before he left.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) was willing to hold the campaign twice a month if there were overwhelming requests from city dwellers instead of merely on the first Sunday of every month.

He said the growing support for the campaign as a way to promote a cleaner environment in the capital was attested by the increase in number of participants from 2,000 in the first edition in January followed to 2,500 (February), 5,000 (March), 7,000 (May) and 10,000 (today).

"This is a recognition to DBKL's effort to promote a healthy lifestyle as well as to enable people to spent quality time with their families.

"Hence, DBKL has agreed to donate 400 bicycles to 80 non-governmental organisations in the capital to promote cycling with each NGO getting five bicycles," he said.

Thanking the participants, KL Car-Free Morning Campaign Implementation Committee chairman Datuk Naim Mohamad said if the event continued to receive tremendous support from city dwellers, it could be held once a week.

"It's a good way to create a healthy environment in the capital, apart from creating harmony among people of various races and from all walks of life," he added.

For Anne de Graaf of the Netherlands Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, she was delighted to take part in the campaign as cycling was part of a Dutch culture.

"We've been cycling regularly at various locations in the Klang Valley in the evening," she said, adding that the embassy had sponsored four bicycles for dignitaries in the campaign.

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