

Najib Takes Time Off To Meet Pekan Residents Despite Busy With MH17 Issue
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PEKAN, July 24 (Bernama) -- Despite his hectic schedule following the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH17 tragedy, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak managed to steal a bit of time to hand out zakat (tithe) aid to the poor, single mothers and other eligible recipients.

At the event held at the Sultan Ahmad Shah Convention Hall, here, Najib handed out zakat to 5,876 recipients including 1,180 single mothers.

He also received zakat contributions totalling almost RM1.5 million from the SME Bank, Bank Rakyat, Affin Islamic Bank Berhad, Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan, Uda Holdings Berhad and Tabung Haji.

Also present was Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

The zakat recipients generally felt deeply touched by Najib's presence in Pekan although he is still busy handling the MH17 tragedy from the federal capital.

One of them, Mohd Khairi Othman, 38, a disabled, said as a Pekan resident he was also proud that Najib, who is also Pekan MP, managed to resolve the issue (release of the bodies of MH17 crash victims in Ukraine) through his own approach.

"What he (Najib) has said all this while about 'People First, Performance Now' remains true," he said.

MH17, carrying 298 people including 44 Malaysians, crashed in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on July 17, believed to have been shot at by a missile.

Mohd Zawawi Othman, 61, said the prime minister taking full responsibility of resolving the issue should be viewed with pride.

"He is a caring and responsible national leader. I did not expect him to still take time to come here (to Pekan) to hand out the zakat aid although he is busy with the MH17 tragedy," he said.

Mohd Zawawi said he was thankful for the zakat aid which would enable him to prepare for Aidilfitri.

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