

**Malaysian Government Pensioners Foundation Set Up To Champion Pensioners' Welfare -
Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, April 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Monday said the Yayasan Pesara Kerajaan Malaysia (Malaysian Government Pensioners Foundation) was established as a platform to struggle for the welfare and interests of the pensioners.

He said such an organisation was needed to serve as a go-between for the pensioners and government to engage in discussions towards coming up with something for the pensioners' well-being, for consideration by the government.

"Its setting up is not just for discussing on increasing the pension, although the matter will be raised from time to time. The pension system in our country is among the best in the world, so that is why today, many want to be public servants.

"Through the setting up of this foundation, we can meet up with all the government pensioners, and this shows the government always has their interests at heart," the prime minister said at the launching of the foundation.

Also present were the foundation's chairman Tan Sri Aseh Che Mat and Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal.

Twenty-five pensioners' associations and clubs are affiliated to the foundation, which will be the coordinating body between the pensioners and government. At the launching ceremony, Najib who is also UMNO president, opened the annual general meeting of the Government Pensioners UMNO Club.

Najib said that besides the question of allowance and pension, housing and health issues should also be dealt with through heart-to-heart discussions towards protecting the welfare of public servants after they retired.

"A social body should also be established, as nothing can be more distressing than feeling empty upon retirement, as though the world has forgotten us.

"I know that for the pensioners, who can they turn to for help if not the government? I prefer that you, ladies and gentlemen, look for me than others.

"I hope that with the setting up of this foundation, there will exist a more cordial relationship between pensioners and the government and their welfare better taken care of," he said.

Najib also approved a RM5 million starting grant for the foundation.

"If there are good projects and programmes, surely the foundation will forward them to the government for consideration," he said.

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