

**Big Turnout At PM's Dinner Event In SibU Despite Heavy Rain**  
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SIBU, June 15 (Bernama) -- Heavy rain did not deter a big turnout of kampung folks from joining Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for a dinner gathering at the Taman Selera Harmoni here, Monday night.

Some 4,000 people turned up at the function, which showed that the prime Minister "was still immensely popular with the ordinary folks," said state Local Government and Community Development Datuk Sri Wong Soon Koh.

Earlier Najib and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor arrived at the SibU airport here this evening for a two-day visit.

Tomorrow they will leave for an Iban longhouse, Rh.Bengau in Sut, Kapit for a "Gawai ngiling tikai" (rolling the mat) which is a celebration to mark the end of the Gawai Dayak festival.

Met by reporters after the function, Wong hoped the turnout would translate into votes for the Barisan Nasional government in the coming state election.

He said Najib too had brought very good news for the SibU folks.

"He has agreed to give a matching grant of RM1 million to upgrade and beautify facilities at this bumiputera food court.

"The state government had earlier also gave RM1million," he said.

Wong said Najib gave his approval on the spot when he and SibU Municipal Council Datuk Tiong Thai king came to see him at his hotel earlier on.

The grant, he said, was timely as SibU would host its 'Visit SibU Year' tourism event next year.

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