

Najib Hands Over Letters Of Offer To 1,200 To Perform Haj
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PUTRAJAYA, July 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today handed over letters of offer to 1,200 people to perform the Haj in the coming season.

They comprise imams, village chiefs and chairmen of village development and security committees.

The handing over of the letters of the offer sponsored the 1Malaysia Development Bhd Foundation took place at the Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Mosque here.

Najib, in his speech, said the initiative to implement the programme came about after he noticed that many of the people in these categories had not performed the Haj, partly due to financial constraints.

He said he sympathised with these people who had contributed a great deal at the grassroots level and, as such, started the sponsorship programme for the target groups.

"I was sad when I found out that there are imams, village chiefs and village development and security committee chairmen who were unable to perform the Haj. Praise be to God, in five seasons we have sent 3,400 people to perform the Haj, including the recipients today. This is what I had desired to fulfill," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Pilgrims Management and Fund Board (Tabung Haji) chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim were also present at the event.

At the function, Najib pointed out how society today believed in perceptions rather than reality, so much so that they were caught up in disseminating unverified information.

Citing the purchase of a piece of land by Tabung Haji from 1MDB at the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX), Najib said it was manipulated to create the perception among the people that it was bad for Tabung Haji depositors.

But when the truth was known, the negative perception changed and many people acknowledged that the purchase of the land at the strategic location was a sound investment, he said. "But, because of the perception, the people's minds were poisoned with slander so much so that good turned out to be bad solely because the purchase had to do with 1MDB," he said.

"That's why I hope that all of you who will be performing the Haj will pray that the national leadership will be determined by us and not others through perception," he said.

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