

PM, Wife Join Malaysians Celebrate Deepavali

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor today joined thousands of Malaysians of diverse races to celebrate Deepavali.

Najib and his wife began their Deepavali open house visit by attending the Deepavali open house organised by MIC at the grounds of the well known tourism spot, Batu Caves, here.

The Prime Minister, who was smartly dressed in a champagne coloured attire, was met by MIC President Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam, who is also Health Minister, and other MIC leaders.

The guests were later feted to various performances and traditional Indian food such as "aloo gobi", "inji puli", "vadai" and "prathamam".

Najib, who spent 30 minutes at the event, was also garlanded with flowers besides cutting a cake to symbolise the "Festival of Light" celebration.

The Prime Minister his wife then spent some time to attend the Deepavali open house of the MAICCI here.

The function at the HGH Convention Centre was also attended by Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

Apart from MAICCI President Tan Sri KK Eswaran and wife, Puan Sri Vivienne Eswaran and Barisan Nasional component party leaders, the open house was also attended by thousands of visitors from diverse racial backgrounds.

Najib spent about one hour interacting with the guests and sampling Indian traditional food and delicacies such as "maruku", "ladu" and various sweets.

The ceremony also saw the cutting of a cake as well as multi cultural song and dance performances from the Malay, Chinese, Indian and Punjabi communities.

Prior to Najib's departure, Eswaran also placed a flower garland on the neck of Najib and his wife as an appreciation of their presence.

Najib and wife also attended the Deepavali open house held in Little India, Brickfields, here organised by the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Their arrival was met by PPP President Tan Sri M. Kayveas and accompanied by nadeswaran musicians and cultural dances.

At the event, Najib symbolically lighted the Khutu Velukku lamp before cutting a cake in conjunction with the festival.

Thousands, including locals and tourists, attended the open house, which was made merry by colourful performances of traditional dances and songs.

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