

Najib Touched By Inspiring Stories Of Yayasan Peneraju Scholarship Holders
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today spent time mingling with Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera (Yayasan Peneraju) scholarship holders and listen to their inspiring stories at Menara Parlimen, here.

Five scholarship holders shared their stories and successes in their respective fields after being sponsored by the foundation at the event which was also attended by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar.

All of them expressed their gratitude to the foundation and were touched by the opportunity to share their life stories with the country's number one leader.

Faiz Alian Mohd Zamre, 15, a Form three student who comes from a poor family and was raised by his single mother, said the scholarship greatly relieved his family's burden.

Through the scholarship, he said he was able to further his education at Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM), Pasir Tumboh, Kelantan.

"To qualify for MRSM was my dream since my primary school days and the scholarship has helped ease the burden of my mother, the sole breadwinner of the family," said Faiz Alian, who aspires to be an engineer.

Nuraini Gastan, 20, considered herself extremely lucky to be a Yayasan Peneraju scholarship holder as it has changed the livelihood of her family.

She said she was working as a cultural dancer with a monthly salary of RM600 and thanks to the foundation's assistance, she is now working at a hotel in the federal capital with an income of RM2,400 per month after completing an 'Executive Certificate in Front Office Operations' programme under the foundation.

"I am grateful to the foundation for I am now able to help my family and assist in my siblings' education and so I hope more will benefit from this programme," she said.

Meanwhile, another Peneraju Professional scholarship holder, Nur Atikah Paimin said the assistance had enabled her to achieve her ambition as an accountant.

"I was taking engineering which I thought was good for my thinking skills before this but I felt the country lacked certified accountants, so I took up the challenge to expand my skills with the scholarship," she said.

Earlier, Najib had also attended the foundation's board of trustees meeting to discuss the progress and future direction of Yayasan Peneraju.

Yayasan Peneraju, an agency under the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department was established in 2011 to strengthen capacity building of Bumiputeras through academic and vocational education in line with Malaysia's aspiration to achieve a high-income developed nation status by 2020.

Yayasan Peneraju chief executive Raja Azura Raja Mahayuddin, when met by reporters, said since its formation 7,000 talented Bumiputeras have benefited from the programmes organised by the foundation.

She said the foundation has a roadmap with the target of achieving 40,000 talented Bumiputeras to excel in various programmes organised by the foundation by 2020.

"To achieve the high-income developed nation nation by 2020, we need to ensure our country has the sufficient number of skilled and professional manpower in various fields," said Raja Azura who hopes to assist more talented Bumiputeras.

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