

PM Attends MCA's Chinese New Year Open House
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor on Monday attended the Chinese New Year Open House organised by the MCA.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi also attended the event held at the Wisma MCA, Jalan Ampang, here.

Najib, Rosmah and Ahmad Zahid, who were attired in red, were greeted on arrival at the Wisma MCA grounds by the MCA top leadership lineup headed by its president, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, and were entertained by a lion dance performance.

Najib, Rosmah and Ahmad Zahid, who spent more than half-an-hour at the event, joined the other top leaders of the Barisan Nasional (BN) including Liow, Gerakan president Datuk Mah Siew Keong and MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam mixed the 'yee sang,' the main dish during the festival which is considered to bring luck among the Chinese community.

Also present at the event were MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

Guests from the various races and foreign tourists also joined in the merriment while witnessing the cultural performances, songs and martial arts demonstrations.

Najib, when approached by reporters, in his short speech, wished a Happy Chinese New Year to all Malaysians especially from the Chinese community.

The Chinese New Year this year (2016) is the Year of the Fire Monkey, which is the most important festival for the Chinese community in welcoming the new year in the Lunar calendar.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid when met by reporters at Wisma MCA said the Chinese community must return to the Barisan Nasional to strengthen further efforts to bring prosperity to the country.

"In the year of the Monkey we are more prosperous. Political and economic problems can be resolved and I hope the Chinese community will return to the government," he said.

MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, meanwhile, said the Chinese community need not worry about whatever problems within the party because the matter could be resolved internally.

"There should not be any move to further split the party, the party is united, I am sure the delegates want the party to be united," he said.

The Transport Minister said as MCA president, he would continue to do his best to unite the party.

"We are focusing on strengthening the party campaign and it involved all the Chinese community throughout the nation," said Liow who was born in the year of the Ox in the Chinese lunar calendar.

MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam meanwhile said in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebrations, solidarity among the people throughout the country must be strengthened to push the country to a higher level.

Meanwhile at a separate event, Najib and his wife attended the open house of the Gerakan at the PGRM Tower, which was also attended by Ahmad Zahid.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong and the party leadership lineup greeted Najib's arrival at 11.10 am where a demonstration to symbolise the year of the fire monkey was also held.

Najib spent almost an hour at the event where he also had the opportunity to complete the calligraphy which meant 'Get Happiness and Welcome Prosperity' besides mixing the 'lou sang'.

Mah, when met by reporters, hoped that the coming of the year of the monkey would give strength for the nation to face whatever challenges.

"This year we foresee a lot of challenges will be faced by our country, especially with the new policy announcement, but we hope with the year 2016, the year of the monkey, we could overcome all the challenges.

"We hope everyone can reduce political talks and concentrate on efforts to assist the people and develop the country, strengthen the economy especially now that we have started the ASEAN community besides signing the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)," he added.

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