

**Success of Athletes an Inspiration to All Malaysians - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the success stories of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes in Rio, to be an inspiration to all Malaysians to seek success in their endeavours.

He said the commitment, dedication and quality demonstrated by the national heroes and heroines could be a boost to the people to achieve their dreams.

"Sports unite people and it can also give the spirit of Malaysians a huge lift.

"I know as each time as I tweet about sports, I get an avalanche of response, but if it (tweet) is about politics, the response is less," he said at an appreciation ceremony for Malaysian Rio Olympic and Paralympic heroes and heroines organised by Umno at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

At the ceremony, the Prime Minister presented Umno's contributions to 12 athletes who won medals at the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio.

The gold medallists received RM30,000 each; RM20,000 for the silver medal winners and RM10,000 for bronze medalists.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said the party also wanted to show its appreciation to national athletes who are paving the way for policies including sports development in the country.

"Whoever succeeds under the patronage of policies pioneered by Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) is also a success of the policies formulated by Umno and BN," he said.

He also told all parties to continue giving appreciation to national athletes for their outstanding achievements.

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