

Najib Tells Parents to Discard Spell, Black Magic Superstitions
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PUTRAJAYA, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said parents of autistic children should discard their superstitions about spells and black magic in regard to their children's condition and treatment.

Such beliefs would cause them to reject modern effective treatment for their children, he said today.

Recounting a visit he made to an autism centre, he said he had asked its director on how many people were using the facility provided by the government and was told that the number was not as many as expected.

"I was told that many parents thought their children had been cast a spell.

"This means that there are parents who still believed that an illness (or condition) could be caused by black magic, to the extent that they don't have confidence in the capability of science and modern treatment," he said.

Najib said this while launching the Sunathon Perdana community health programme at Masjid Putra here.

The sunathon perdana jointly organised by the Malaysian Muslim Doctors Association and Federal Territories Ministry involved 1,250 participants comprising orphans and poor families.

The prime minister lauded the association in joining forces with the government to provide free health services to the needy community.

He also noted the latest 'clamp and laser' circumcision approach adopted by the Muslim doctors, which is better than the 'tok mudim' method as it is less painful and minimises the fear of children who had to undergo the procedure.

Meanwhile, Najib said the sunathon should be entered into the Malaysia Book of Record judging by its nature and number of participants involved.

"I am used to launching jogathons, walkathons and other similar programmes but this sunathon is very interesting and deserves to be in the MBOR," he said.

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