

Najib Wants Penghulu, Penggawa to Convey Info on People's Problems
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants all 'penghulu' and 'penggawa' (mukim chiefs) in the country to convey information on the people's problems for the government to get the real picture of the situation on the ground.

He said this information was crucial for the government to develop policies that could resolve the problems.

"The penghulu and penggawa in the mukims are the closest to the people and the grassroots.

"I have been saying that we must feel the pulse of the people; the penghulu and penggawa are those who can feel the pulse of the people," he said when closing a seminar on empowering the institution of the penghulu/penggawa here today.

Najib said that unless the penghulu and penggawa provided information on the people's problems, the government would not know the actual situation on the ground and this would undermine the effectiveness of its policies.

The Prime Minister also reminded the penghulu and penggawa that the survival of the country depended on political stability and the right choice of political party to rule it.

Evidently, in the political reality of the country today, the people could only choose between the government helmed by UMNO and the opposition led by the DAP.

"It is stated in the constitution of that party (DAP) that the Federal Constitution should be secular ... and in its alternative budget it is stated that equal opportunities be given (to all Malaysians).

"When it is stated as equal, there will no longer be the Bumiputera special privileges, no more the agenda to empower the Bumiputera economy," he said.

Najib said that as the Prime Minister he had big plans for the country, especially in developing the economy to a higher level. He said the national economy now stood at RM1.3 trillion and the government was determined to raise it to RM2 trillion over the next seven or eight months.

"That's why we are embarking on massive projects such as the high-speed rail, projects in Pengerang, Iskandar, the East Coast Rail Line, the Pan Borneo Highway ... so that our economy expands to RM2 trillion, and the people benefit," he said.

Najib announced that several places would be reserved for penghulu and penggawa to perform the Haj pilgrimage with full sponsorship by 1Malaysia Development Bhd.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom was also present at the

event.

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