

PM: We have the young in mind

Govt has many youth-friendly policies, says Najib

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
mazwin@thestar.com.my

SEPANG: The Malaysian Government of today is one that has been implementing programmes for the young people and their future, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the Government realises that the country's future is with the young, and it has drawn up many youth-friendly policies.

"As the PM, I formulate policies to ensure the future of our young people. I understand and feel their needs and aspirations

"This Government does not make short-term policies and neither do we take the populist path just to gain support," he said in his address during a gathering of youths from the 4B Youth Movement at Kampung Ulu Chuchoh here yesterday.

Najib cited the National Transformation 2050 as one of the Government's initiatives to hear out the views of young Malaysians.

To date, 80,000 aspirations have been collected and will be made into a blueprint to help chart the country's future path.

Najib said he had also put in place policies to promote civil liber-



One for the album: Najib posing for a photograph with youths at the closing ceremony of the Malaysia 4B Youth Movement Day celebration at Kampung Ulu Chuchuh in Sepang yesterday. About 10,000 youths from across the country attended the event. — Bernama

ties and had abolished the Internal Security Act "so that we can hear the voices of the young".

This is in contrast to "previous leadership" where voices of dissent were silenced by the ISA, he added.

"I have been criticised, condemned and have been a victim of fake news numerous times.

"But this is democracy. I don't carry out 'Ops Lalang' just because people criticise me," he said, referring to the arrests of more than 100

politicians and activists during a crackdown by the then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1987.

"There is room for criticism, but it should be done responsibly based on facts. Don't spread fake news and hearsay," Najib said.

He also said youths should support the Barisan Nasional-led Government which has and would continue to look after their interests.

He added several plans are being

implemented for the youths, such as the opening of three Youth Cities.

"The Youth City will be established in three states, with the first to be in Tanjung Malim. If Barisan wins in Selangor, then we can have one in Selangor," he said to the applause of the crowd.

Najib also launched the 4B Youth Friend of Barisan Nasional machinery, which will be deployed to help the party in the 14th general election.