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Najib: Help create a strong society

Ahmad Suffian

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Muslim university students can create a strong ummah (society) for the future by forging co-operation and harmony with other nationalities.

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) acting president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said this was also in line with Islam which emphasised unity and brotherhood.

He said prejudices based on race, colour, caste and sex would be erased while the only distinction between individuals would be their level of achievement in terms of spirituality, morality and knowledge.

"While it is true that the Islamic world is facing a lot of challenges, this should not deter students from working hard to create a strong and invincible ummah that will gain respect of other nations," said Najib, who is also Education Minister.

"The co-operation and harmony between the national and international students here shows that this can be made into a reality. This is a challenge that should be met by the future generation, especially IIUM students."

He said the strong spirit of ukhuwah (brotherhood among nations) had to be instilled in the students' minds so that when they became leaders, they could live in peaceful co-existence with international society.

"This will also enable our dream of creating a more peaceful and prosperous world to be realised. This is what we have been doing and this is what we hope to achieve.

"It is hoped that IIUM graduates will uphold and live up to this expectation," he added.

Najib said Islam has always strived for excellence in all aspects and IIUM students should continue to adhere to this philosophy.

"This tradition of excellence should be continued. No where is this more important than in the pursuit of knowledge. Even Prophet Muhammad preached the value of knowledge.

"I strongly believe that IIUM students have what it takes to be faithful Muslims, strong followers and great leaders in the future."

On another note, Najib said IIUM students should always respect the country's laws and abide by them.

"Respect for the laws of the country will reflect your level of maturity and self-discipline.

"Malaysia makes no apologies for the fact that the maintenance of law and order is sacrosanct to our country. Only with peace and stability, can we develop the ummah and the nation."

IIUM's Convest '98 fiesta is organised by the Students' Representative Council at the Faculty of Economics premises in Gombak. It will be on until Dec 1.

It is held to mark the university's 14th convocation which will be held at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here on Saturday.

Some 113 stalls selling a variety of items including foodstuff, books and clothing have been set up by the students.

Also present were IIUM rector Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid A. Abusulayman, Student Affairs and Development Division dean Dr Rahmattullah Khan Abdul Wahab Khan, the council's president Ahmad Nazim Abdul Rahman and convest '98 director Mahathir Mokhtar.

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