

1M'sia not a BN political tool, says Najib
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Najib Razak said today that the 1Malaysia concept is for nation-building, and not meant for political purposes.

Without doubt, the prime minister said, this spirit of togetherness and the ability to rise above political differences are important in ensuring continued peace and stability in the country.

"Although some might like to think it (1Malaysia) is for political purposes, it is actually for nation-building," he said.

"It is for us to come together, for us to feel that we belong to one nation, one people with one vision, and that is for us to march forward together to develop a truly prosperous, harmonious and successful 21st century nation," he said at the Christmas tea party hosted by Kuala Lumpur Archbishop Murphy Pakiam at the archbishop's residence here.

Najib added: "In today's world where a small group of extremists has drowned the voices of reason and common sense and hijacked the agenda of peace and moderation, it is important for the moderates in every faith - Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists - among us to speak up to reclaim our rightful place and the moral high ground."

Najib also said that religion taught us to be tolerant, caring and respectful of the beliefs and practices of others.

"We are bound by our common destiny. We are bound by our common heritage. We are bound by our need to forge ahead as one nation to face the challenges that lie ahead," he said.

Najib also reminded Malaysians not to forget the message of Christmas which is peace, hope, charity, love and goodwill towards all men.

"This message is not only for Christians. This message is for all people," he added.

Also present was Najib's wife, Rosmah Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Koh Tsu Koon, foreign dignitaries and opposition leaders.

Rais: 84% of Malaysians understand 1Malaysia

Meanwhile, Information, Communication and Culture Minister Dr Rais Yatim said today that eighty-four percent of Malaysians understand the 1Malaysia concept, more than the 75 percent targeted.

This was found in a survey carried out by his ministry from June to July which also showed 72 percent accepting the concept.

"A poll of 15,353 respondents showed that 84 percent regarded it (1Malaysia) as good and will not cause disunity, and acceptance of the concept was 72 percent," he told reporters

after attending the 1Malaysia Christmas open house hosted by businessman Vanatiah Anthony and his wife, Elispetoo Sinnappan, at Kampung Baru Sungai Chua in Kajang.

Rais said that a poll of 12,212 in October last year showed 69 percent understood the concept.

He said that all should strive to help realise the concept regardless of their political affiliation.

- Bernama

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