

PM: Everyone has a crucial role to play in nation-building
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KUALA LUMPUR – Every Malaysian citizen is crucial to the country's development as he or she has the capability to contribute to the well-being of the nation, said Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak in his Merdeka Day message Tuesday.

The Prime Minister added that the time had come for the country to fully utilise local talents in order to move forward.

"It will be a huge loss to the country if the talents, whom we have painstakingly nurtured, migrate in search of a greener pasture just because of our failure to provide the conducive environment for them to contribute," Najib said in his message to mark the 53rd National Day.

He said society should not allow the Malaysian way of life, which is based on diversity and moderation, to be undermined by extreme attitudes which manifest themselves through racial and religious issues.

"Everything which we have achieved, everything which we have built, and things which are dear to us, will be destroyed.

"We should, therefore, value the prevailing peace, harmony and stability in the country," he said.

He also said the time had come for the current generation to take the lead to propel the country to greater heights.

Saying the real challenge for Malaysians today was to transform the country into a developed and high-income nation by 2020, Najib said the Government had put in place a strong foundation in the form of the Government Transformation Plan and Economic Transformation Plan.

The success achieved in transforming Malaysia from a low-income and agricultural-based country into a medium-income industrialised one was due to the commitment, planning and diligence of the Government, along with the people, in holding fast to the philosophy of being constantly ahead of the curve of transformation and changes, he said.

"Refusing to be contented with the status quo, and out of sheer determination, our forefathers took Malaysia from one success to another.

"Today, it is our turn to lead Malaysia to greater heights of progress and prosperity. The question is, are we courageous enough to break away from tradition and achieve the extraordinary?"

Looking back at the struggle of past leaders, Najib said the nation's forefathers had never felt satisfied with what the country had then. They constantly worked to create a better future for the country and its people, he said.

To continue on that path, Najib said Malaysia should safeguard national unity as the country's pillar of peace and stability.

It was for this reason, he said, that the basis of integration among Malaysians should be built upon shared values as spelled out in the Rukun Negara.

"Please remember that Malaysia is our homeland; this is the place where we were born, the place where we grew up, where we find our livelihood, a place where we find happiness and where we shall be laid to rest," he said.

In conjunction with National Day, he called on Malaysians to renew their commitment and strengthen their resolve to make Malaysia the best country.

"For the sake of our children's future, we must defend the survival of our country. Let us not break what is intact," he said. — Bernama

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