

**No national unity, no ETP reality, says PM <http://www.google.com/buzz/post>
Malaysianmirror.com
22 September 2010**

PUTRAJAYA – Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Wednesday cautioned that his administration's transformation plans to boost the national economy will not materialise without national unity and harmony.

The Prime Minister said at present the government had formulated several transformation plans, among them the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) to boost the economy.

"The past few days we have been hearing about the GTP, ETP and others. Remember, there can never be any transformation without national unity and harmony," Bernama quoted him as saying.

He said this at a meeting with leaders of the various religions in the country held in conjunction with Malaysia Day at the Finance Ministry here Wednesday..

Najib said if the government only focused on development and the economy without looking into other needs like national unity and harmony, the country would collapse.

"We have plenty of examples, progressive nations can flounder if such issues (racial and religious harmony) are not addressed.

"In this world there are many people without sound minds. Advanced nations also have leaders who are prejudiced because they cannot accept differences. . .seeing the good in other religions. . .Islam is also good," he said.

The Prime Minister said religious understanding among Malaysians, who embrace various religions, could help the process of nation building.

At the same time, Najib said he viewed the setting up of the Committee to Promote Religious Understanding and Harmony, which is chaired by Ilani Isahak, as an important platform for discussing religious matters behind closed doors in a harmonious atmosphere.

"It is not for us to state something openly. If we make statements openly, it will be very difficult for us to change our stand without feeling ashamed because we have had to compromise or the like.

"We also do not want, if we make open statements, others to get into the act. Others will comment on our statements and only make the situation worse," Bernama quoted him as saying.

The Prime Minister also said the term Islamophobia as depicted by *Time* magazine in its recent issues, was something serious.

He said it showed the ignorance of the followers of other religions in several countries about Islam and that the setting up of the committee in the country would be able to overcome such problems.

"The root cause of all these misunderstanding, misapprehension and conflicts is ignorance. Because without understanding and knowledge, there can never be goodwill and understanding.

"The very fact that you appreciate one another means you have a strong basis to establish a strong nation called Malaysia," he said.

"That is why I encourage such meetings. I am confident and believe, if this method (meeting of religious leaders) is done well, the beauty of each religion will be understood," he said, adding that through the committee, the religious leaders could also jointly implement programmes to combat drug addiction and social ills affecting juveniles.

"As the head of government, I will fully support this committee," Najib said.

The Prime Minister said he also hoped that Malaysians will exercise wisdom in dealing with religious matters to avoid controversy or inter-religious conflicts. — Bernama

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/49483>