

PM extends Wesak Day greetings

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KUALA LUMPUR: Religious organisations play a vital role in developing human capital and fostering unity among people of different races and religions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said despite differences in practice, all religions propagated noble characteristics.

"All religions teach their followers to practise good values and morals and want their followers to become people who love and appreciate peace and strive for development," Abdullah said in his Wesak Day message.

He said good values and morals were important for every individual.

"Our society will be safer and more peaceful if we understand and practise what our religion preaches to us all the time."

Abdullah said human capital development was a most critical element in achieving the national mis-

sion and the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"We want to create knowledgeable and highly skilled individuals who, at the same time, have positive attitudes, values and ethics.

"Today, our country is looked upon as a model country because people of different religions, cultures and ethnicities can live peacefully and in unity.

"I am happy to see Malaysians of various races and religions continuing the tradition of sharing and caring that we have practised all this while.

"We must appreciate the peace and stability we are enjoying now.

"We should learn from history and should not be negligent, or the harmony we have could be destroyed."

Abdullah wished all Malaysian Buddhists a happy Wesak and hoped the people would continue to strengthen unity and mutual understanding.