

# Nazrin spells out the do's on national-building

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The integrity of the Federal Constitution must be protected – and to do that, the young must familiarise themselves with the supreme law that guarantees the rights of every Malaysian.

The Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, said this when he gave five suggestions to a group of young leaders on how they can contribute to the country's continued success in nation-building.

**His other suggestions:**

» Study the nation's history, particularly the lives and works of past leaders.

Here, he cited the case of former deputy prime minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman who envisaged a Malaysia for all “without colour lines, without ethnic borders and without any one group feeling a sense of inferiority.”

Ismail recognised the importance of open-mindedness in addressing day-to-day issues and problems, the importance of listening and learning from others, especially those who are more advanced and strongly believed in the principle of life-long learning.

The leadership, sincerity, sacrifices and integrity of Ismail and other leaders of his generation should serve to inspire the next generation of leaders.

» Take personal ownership over the well-being of the country.

Do not succumb to indifference and apathy. Hold on to your ideals and beliefs. Do not give way to cynicism and opportunism. Believe that you can make a difference.

Channel your energies in a constructive manner to bring about positive changes around you.

» Participate actively in community services that are geared towards promoting interaction between communities.

Volunteer your spare time and energy to work with Malaysians from other walks of life and ethnic groups.

» Serve the country to the best of your ability.

Always think nation first. The outside world knows the value of the

country's best brains and that was why they set out to attract Malaysians and create a brain drain for the country.

Do not exacerbate the problem of brain drain. Do not be averse to building a career in the public service.

Malaysia needs a future generation of leaders with unquestionable integrity.

In countries where specialised expertise and technical know-how are lacking, they can be imported from elsewhere. But integrity, by definition, is something that cannot be bought or hired.

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