

'Peace depends on unity as much as taking up arms'

KUALA LUMPUR: Unity is as important to the defence of the country as taking up arms.

But unity cannot be taken for granted, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. It must be continuously built and nurtured, otherwise the nation's peace and harmony could be at risk.

Najib, also the defence minister, said defending the country was not the sole responsibility of the security forces. Everyone

must be involved, from the security forces to the public and private sectors and man in the street.

He was opening a workshop yesterday organised by the national security division of the Prime Minister's Department and the policy division of the Defence Ministry on the concept and implementation of "Hanruh" — a total defence concept involving not only the military but the civil service and public sector as well.

"Hanruh needs to be studied.

Programmes must be designed to promote integration based on the people's quality of life and collective destiny," he said, adding that it must change and adapt to the country's needs.

He suggested that Hanruh's role should not be limited to security threats but include national crises like natural disasters.

"Relevant and practical implementation strategies must also be designed to ensure the nation's economic sustainability."

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He said although Hanruh had been in place since 1986, it was still at a conceptual and strategic phase.

"As a result, the Hanruh concept is only known by a small group directly involved in the country's safety and defence.

"This may be because of the absence of any threat to the country, and the comfort and prosperity enjoyed by the people resulted in a lack of commitment and need for Hanruh."