

Najib admits hurdle in forming mature society

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LONDON: The Malaysian Government faces a major challenge in overseeing the transformation of the country's society into a mature one.

In making this observation, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he would like to think that a mature society was not measured in terms of a GDP growth of 6% or 7%.

"Rather, I'm talking of mature in a holistic, comprehensive sense," he added on Friday after meeting more than 200 Malaysian students at Malaysia Hall here.

Najib said the Government had to address, for instance, thorny issues such as stopping extremism from taking root in society.

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"We're concerned with certain views that Muslims should not visit their non-Muslim friends and wish them Happy Deepavali or Chinese New Year," he said.

He also touched on the concept of Bangsa Malaysia, noting that it was not linked to the Federal Constitution.

»I'm talking of mature in a holistic sense«

DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

Stressing that it was merely a state of mind, he said Malaysians did not look at a person's race or religion when making friends.

"They only want to know whether he or she is a good person," he said, adding that this in itself was a form of acceptance of the Bangsa Malaysia concept.

In fact, he added, Malaysia took pride in being a model of racial unity and national integration.