

THE STAR

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PM: Unity not a slogan

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'It's something real that is part of the Malaysian practice'

PUTRAJAYA: Unity is not just a mere slogan as far as Malaysia and its people are concerned.

Unity, in fact, is a way of life in this country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"In this country, unity is not a slogan. It is not just a story. It is something real that is part of Malaysian practice. There may be problems emerging here and there but we remain united as Malaysians.

"We practise cooperation and appreciate racial harmony. That is the secret to our 50 years of success," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking before some 4,000 undergraduates from various public and private universities and colleges at the launching of *Gegar UI Colours of Our Nation: A Symbol of Unity* - a programme jointly organised by Yayasan Budi Penyayang (Penyayang) and the Higher Education Ministry to inspire youths to be involved in community projects.

Also present were Penyayang chairman Nori Abdullah, its chief executive officer Datuk Leela Mohd Ali, Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohammed and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's department Joseph Entulu Belaun.

Abdullah reminded the undergraduates that high hopes were placed on them to ensure the country and its people continued to enjoy progress and prosperity.

"We should not be afraid of globalisation and should embrace the challenges. This is because with challenges come opportunities," he said.

At the function, Abdullah also presented tokens of appreciation to the programme's



Token of appreciation: Wong (right) raising high the certificate of appreciation he received on behalf of *The Star* from Abdullah in Putrajaya yesterday. Looking on (from left) are Nori, Mustapa and Leela.

sponsors, including Star Publications (M) Berhad, which was represented by *The Star*'s group chief editor Datuk Wong Chun Wai.

The other sponsors were Scomi Bhd, TV3, Utusan Group, Celcom Bhd, Naza Group and Astro.

Meanwhile, Nori said the aim of the programme was to enhance the potential of youths to become productive citizens, partici-

pate in community-related activities and promote unity among them.

Mustapa said unity and tolerance were important aspects of developing quality human capital.

He also called for youths to emulate the prime minister whom he described as "caring, modest, humble and persistent in the context of unity".