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# PM: Malaysia ready to be a bridge across cultures

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WASHINGTON: Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Malaysia, with its background of multiculturalism and tolerance, can play an effective role in promoting deeper understanding between the Muslim world and the West and other divides as well.

The prime minister said Malaysia had the ability to reach out to other nations and communities.

"The world may have its problems but things can be resolved with greater understanding of one another.

"Malaysia stands ready to play its role to make it a better world," he told a gathering of Malaysians at the Malaysian embassy here on Tuesday, organised in conjunction with his visit to Washington.

A grey and rainy American capital greeted Najib when he arrived here on Tuesday afternoon from New York where he held meetings with American investors and fund managers in efforts to increase American investments in Malaysia.

In contrast, the scene at the mission was one of warmth and conviviality as Malaysians of various races mingled with one another over satay, mee goreng and other Malaysian favourites.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak speaking at a gathering of Malaysians at the Malaysian embassy in Washington. — Bernama picture

On hand to welcome them was Malaysian ambassador to the United States, Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Jarjis.

Najib, who is also finance minister, reiterated his hope of achieving economic growth of between five and six per cent for Malaysia

next year.

"There comes a time when you reach a plateau in the economy.

"So, we need to do something to reach a higher trajectory in terms of our development," said the prime minister.

He said this was behind the re-

cent introduction of a series of economic reforms in Malaysia.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, left for Trinidad and Tobago yesterday to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. — Bernama