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KAMARUDUAN MOHD
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Najib shares a light moment with Prof Madya Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin (right) and Perlis mufti Dr Juanda Jaya during the ulama gathering.



Safeguard dignity of Islam: Najib

> PM wants intellectuals, Islamic scholars and virtual writers to work with the government

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has urged intellectuals, Islamic scholars and virtual writers to work together with the government and safeguard the dignity of Islam.

"I say this because as Muslims, we are facing many challenges and these challenges demand us to be more united, more coordinated in terms of our actions.

"We have to have stronger commitment and consensus for the stability and prosperity in the country so that the sanctity of Islam and Muslims can be championed by us," said Najib.

He said this in his keynote address at a national gathering of Islamic

scholars, intellectuals and virtual writers at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

He said the involvement of the scholars, intellectuals and virtual writers is vital especially in this era where false information can be spread easily through the cyber world.

Najib said the IT revolution is one that cannot be rejected by anyone and the reality is Malaysians are among the highest users of social media. He said that while social media is a good platform for interaction, it could also be a double-edged sword as any sensational information can become viral immediately.

Thus, he said it is important these three groups also work together with the government to be aware of the policies and spread accurate information to the people.

He said that even he has been a target in the social media, citing the criticism he received when he performed the hajj pilgrimage last year.

"When I conducted my *tawaf*, my group and I were extended the same

facilities that was provided for all government leaders from Islamic countries but that issue was politicised by some irresponsible people to incite hate against me and the government," said Najib.

He thanked Perak mufti Tan Sri Harussani Zakaria for making clear that his presence at the recent Thaipusam celebration in Batu Caves was not against Islamic doctrine.

Najib yesterday also indirectly took a swipe at the Opposition without naming specific parties. "Even if we vote for that faction, it is the one who sleeps in the same bed with them that will profit," he said adding that he hoped online writers would get his meaning.

Referring to the debate between MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek and Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng last Saturday, Najib said: "The Chinese held a debate on Chinese at the crossroads. Muslims too are at a crossroads, more so since the general election is not far off.

"We must choose, and the one we choose must be able to guarantee the honour and purity Islam," he said.