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NATIONAL HARMONY

# *Public plays big part in shaping new legislation*

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has stated that the government's decision to abolish the Sedition Act and replace it with the National Harmony Act will not affect its powers to deal with situations that threaten harmony and unity.

Introducing any new legislation, particularly one that affects harmony, unity and national security, is a serious matter that requires thought and deliberation.

The Sedition Act 1948 served the purpose of ensuring peace and national security, despite the criticisms levelled against it.

Now that Najib has called for the introduction of the National Harmony Act, what needs to be done is ensure that the government will introduce a better legislation.

I suggest that the government seek public engagement by inviting organisations and individuals

to give their opinions on what should constitute the proposed legislation.

The essential ingredients of the proposed law should be building and ensuring racial harmony and unity, based on the social contract and as enshrined in the Constitution.

Harmony and unity in our multiracial and multireligious nation are invaluable commodities that must not be sacrificed.

A parliamentary committee, made up of government and opposition members of parliament, could be set up to examine the drafted bill in depth.

This is so in the end, the proposed bill will receive unanimous support.

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