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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	9/5/2013

Focus on reconciliation, moderation, says PM

PUTTING UNITY FIRST: Others echo his call and urge formation of government of national unity

NST - 9/5/2013

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak reiterates that his next task will be national reconciliation.

He had, on Monday, said the government would embark on national reconciliation efforts to unite the people who seemed divided.

"My next task is to harmonise the racial issues. We need to reach out to others in national reconciliation and moderation," he said in his tweet yesterday.

Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute chief executive officer Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, in congratulating Najib in being sworn in as prime minister, called on him to form a broad-based government of national unity.

He said the government of national unity could be part of Najib's national reconciliation

programme.

"This is a time to put national interest above party interest. It will be the time for the nation to heal and seek a new political culture and realignment," he said in a statement here yesterday.

Yeoh said Umno should initiate a government of national unity by bringing in DAP, PKR and Pas to become partners in ruling the nation.

"There are no permanent friends or foes in politics, and by coming together, the nation can move forward to face future challenges.

"Even in the United Kingdom, the Conservatives and LibDems can form a coalition government, and there are also many examples in other countries."

He noted that only with unity, the parties could come together to work out a common programme to tackle corruption, combat crime, reform education and promote national economic competitiveness.

"This is the new hope for the na-



Asli chief executive officer Tan Sri Michael Yeoh says a government of national unity could be part of the prime minister's national reconciliation programme



Malaysia Foundation trustee Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye calls for the setting up of a National Unity Consultative Council to address racial integration issues

tion," he added.

The Malaysia Foundation has called for the setting up of a National Unity Consultative Council to deliberate on issues concerning racial integration, its trustee Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said.

He said there was a need for the council "in the wake of disturbing developments arising from the just-concluded general election".

"The council should be made up of representatives of interested groups or individuals who can offer suggestions or ideas to help address current development and key issues on how to bring the nation together after a heated and bitterly contested general election."

He also said Malaysia needed ethnic bridge builders instead of ethnic heroes to neutralise the politics of hatred, racial polarisation and exclusiveness, which seemed to be on the rise.

"It is now time for Malaysians to take a firm stand against divisive forces that can tear apart our social fabric and cause disunity."

Lee said the elections were over and the people have spoken through the ballot boxes.

Thus, instead of making more provocative and hostile statements, he said the people should concentrate in bringing the people together to face the many challenges ahead.

