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PRIME NEWS

'Respect one another'

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RESPONSIBILITY: It is up to all Malaysians to maintain harmony, says Sultan Nazrin

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SULTAN of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah said Malaysians, who are of diverse religions, races and cultures, must respect one another and not go overboard by crossing religious boundaries.

He said the fact that Malaysians are made up of different backgrounds must be accepted and understood by all.

In his royal address at the 187th Conference of the Perak Islamic Religion and Malay Custom Coun-

cil here yesterday, Sultan Nazrin said Islam was not just a belief, but a culture and holistic way of life.

He said Islam stresses on fairness, emphasises harmony and promotes peace, far from allowing acts of suppression.

"For that, Muslims and institutions responsible for Islamic affairs must be sensitive towards the followers of other religions and they (followers of other religions), in turn, must understand and respect the sensitivity of Muslims.

"The followers of other religions have to be sensitive towards the feelings of Muslims when they choose to analyse, what more, openly criticise, matters which touch on Islam.

"It is the collective responsibility of all Malaysians to maintain harmony.

"As such, the action of not going overboard and not crossing religious boundaries must be respected by everyone at all times."

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir



Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah giving his royal address at the 187th Conference of the Perak Islamic Religion and Malay Custom Council in Ipoh yesterday. Pic by Supian Ahmad

and State Secretary Datuk Abdul Puhat Mat Nayan.

Yesterday's conference was Sultan Nazrin's first public engagement after he was proclaimed the 35th Sultan of Perak, succeeding his late father, Sultan Azlan Shah, who died on May 28.

He said it was a huge responsibility to defend the sanctity of Islam, and could not be compromised.

Sultan Nazrin said the responsibility must be fulfilled intelligently in terms of words and actions.

"The sovereignty of Islam should not be polluted with acts of impulsive and offensive, driven by instinct."

Earlier in his address, Sultan Nazrin extended his gratitude to his subjects who helped in one way

or another, during the demise of his father.

The sultan, who was overcome with emotion at least twice when speaking about his late father, said he was touched by the gesture of tens of thousands of people who came to offer their condolences to the royal family.

"I believe many of them had never met my father personally before this. However, their presence during his demise demonstrated their loyalty to their ruler. Symbolically, they upheld the royal institution."

Sultan Nazrin said the people's presence increased his awareness on his responsibility to his people.

"As a ruler, I am mindful that I have to rule fairly and justly. As a ruler, I also have to look after the welfare of my subjects."