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Don't fall for extremist views, says Najib

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By D. KANYAKUMARI
kanya@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The Indian community in Malaysia must not fall for extremist views which attempt to disrupt racial unity in the country, said the Prime Minister.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor represented Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Ugadi festival open house organised by the Telugu Association of Malaysia at Dataran Merdeka here.

Tengku Adnan said Najib apologised for not being able to attend the launch and explained that he was not in the state of mind to do so after the helicopter crash on Saturday.

In his speech, Najib said Ugadi being the new year for the Telugu community, marked new beginnings, resolutions and hopes.

"This is when we renew our commitments and attempt to under-



Festive colours: Tengku Adnan at the open house as president of the Telugu Association Datuk Dr Achaiah Kumar Rao (third from left) looks on. — Bernama

stand one another as one community, and work together as a nation to live in peace and harmony.

"The celebrations today give us the opportunity to further understand

one another in addition to being a great way to allow tourists to have a peek at the rich culture our nation holds," said Najib, whose speech was read out by Tengku Adnan.

Najib said although Malaysians had their differences, ultimately their spirit of patriotism was one.

"That said, I call on all Malaysians to not fall for extremist views and live by moderation, because only a small number of people sensationalise the differences we have, while the silent majority does not approve of such a divide," he said.

Najib added that he was aware that a lot more needed to be done for the development of the Indian and Telugu communities, but said he was pleased with the progress made thus far.

"The Government along with the Telugu and Indian communities will take all efforts to build a better future for the upcoming generations," he said, adding that he would acknowledge factors such as education and job opportunities as well as business avenues for the Indian community in the 11th Malaysian Plan.