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We cherish and protect diversity: PM

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> Government will continue to help all communities, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue to enhance the efficiency and integrity of its services to assist all communities, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said yesterday.

It will continue to serve the iMalaysia commitment of a united nation as the country nears Vision 2020, he said.

In his 2015 Chinese New Year message posted on his blog, NajibRazak.com, the

prime minister said the Lunar New Year is one of the biggest celebrations in the country as it signifies the turn of the Chinese calendar and the beginning of a new chapter in life.

He said it is a time when family and friends come together in celebration and in gratitude to appreciate the old and embrace the new.

"Today, we are all guests... welcomed into the homes of our Chinese neighbours, in the true spirit of iMalaysia, to experience the rich traditions of the Chinese culture.

"My family and I have always appreciated the hospitality of Chinese

Malaysians, particularly at this time of year," he said.

The Chinese New Year reminded the people of the diversity that made Malaysia extraordinary, he said.

He added that the fabric of the country had been woven by the various ethnicities, languages and faiths that completed the nation.

"It is this diversity that we celebrate, cherish and protect," he said.

Despite the challenges of last year, Chinese New Year represents a new beginning for Malaysia, Najib said.

"May the year of the goat also bring each of you

happiness, prosperity and good health. Happy New Year. Gong Xi Fa Cai," he said.

In his Chinese New Year message, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Malaysia is still a country to be emulated for its harmonious race relations compared to some countries which were in turmoil.

However, he said, the government was aware there were still factions which made unreasonable demands aimed at disrupting harmony.

"They are actually the thorns in the flesh to the development of a Malaysian race." - Bernama