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Limits to freedom of expression

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PM: M'sia will not accept acts that threaten religious harmony

PETALING JAYA: There are limits to freedom of expression and Malaysia will not allow incitement which can lead to religious violence, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"I would like to stress that here in Malaysia, we will not accept any religious provocation or any acts which threaten or insult any religion done in the name of freedom of expression. There are limits to freedom," Najib said in his radio broadcast yesterday.

He said the authorities would act against those who try to do anything that could cause religious conflict.

"Mutual respect is a basic principle which must be practised to guarantee continuous harmony in the country," he said.

He said Malaysia strongly condemned terrorist attacks around the

world including in Paris and Sydney recently.

In the context of *Charlie Hebdo*, he said Malaysia did not condone the attacks on them.

"But at the same time that does not mean we accept their provocative actions against other religions," he said.

Najib had joined other world leaders in condemning the attack on the French satirical newspaper in Paris that killed 12 people on Jan 7.

"To protect Malaysia from the threat of terrorism, including the Islamic State, the authorities have already started operations to detect and detain those involved in such groups," he said.

He pointed out that a government White Paper had already been tabled in Parliament and anti-terrorism legislation would be tabled in March.