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PM: Be wary of threats to nation's stability

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GOODWILL: Stay united, be patient in facing challenges, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has urged Malaysians to be wary of the possibility of internal and external threats, including interference by foreign powers, to undermine the nation's stability and sovereignty. He said the people should be prepared to face all possibilities and realities.

In an Aidilfitri message, he urged Malaysians to stop slandering one another and advised the people to remain united and exercise patience in facing challenges, and to be firm in their stand.

"On this auspicious day of Aidilfitri, let us do good. Revive fading relationships, strengthen lethargic brotherhood.

"Open wide the doors of your hearts, the doors of your houses and the gates of kindness through the Malaysia window of goodwill."

In the broader context, Najib said, Malaysia would remain committed to helping and championing the plight of the oppressed throughout the world, more so Muslims in Palestine or other corners of the world.

"As this year's Asean chairman, Malaysia is sympathetic to the plight of the Rohingya refugees and has offered help."

He said Kuala Lumpur strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Kuwait and France several weeks ago by the Islamic State (IS) militants that had killed and injured many people.

The heinous acts, Najib said, were in contravention of Islamic teachings.

"Of course, we always condemn any action that is inhumane, no matter who commits it and regardless of religion, ethnicity and geographical boundaries."

He said the government would step up monitoring and security to ensure that the extreme ideology of IS did not spread to Malaysia.

Najib said Islam advocated peace and urged the people to adhere to the 'Wasatiyyah' principle of moderation — not too extreme in ideology or too liberal in terms of faith.

He pointed out that Muslims in several countries were struggling through obstacles and Malaysia had to face many challenges and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting guests during the prime minister and cabinet's Hari Raya open house at Seri Perdana complex in Putrajaya on Friday. Pic by Sairien Nafis

unexpected disasters.

Nevertheless, Najib said, this did not prevent the Muslim community in Malaysia from celebrating Aidilfitri with joy and jubilation.

He said this could happen only if the country was governed and managed by an efficient and effective leadership.

Najib said it was for this reason that international credit rating agency Fitch Ratings recently upgraded Malaysia from "negative" to "stable", which placed Malaysia on a sound economic footing and the country was on the right track to achieve a high-income status by 2020.

Despite these achievements, he said he was well aware of the plight of the people, especially due to the rising cost of living, and the government had addressed this through

the implementation of initiatives to ease their burden.

Najib said the people should report traders who charged unreasonable prices and made excessive profits.

Referring to the 11th Malaysia Plan, he said it emphasised the need to help the households in the lowest 40 per cent income bracket.

However, he said he took note that all these were not enough.

"Rest assured that when the national revenue increases, the government will continue to look for ways to implement more initiatives to improve the well-being of the people."

Najib said this was being done when Malaysia was increasingly getting recognition as a progressive Islamic country, and a model nation for developing countries and other

Muslim countries.

He said adding strength to the country's position was the Malaysian Syariah Index that was launched on Feb 10.

Najib described the index as a complementary product of Islamic governance that had never been implemented by any other country.

"It is a scientific method of measurement for calibrating a position in the state administration based on the Maqasid principles of Syariah."

He urged the people to express condolences and sympathy to those who had suffered in disasters.

"We must remember the security forces at our borders and everywhere else on this blessed land," he said, adding that this was also directed at the unsung heroes who defended the security and sovereignty of the country. **Bernama**