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Malaysians do not want excesses, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians do not want freedom without limits, but freedom bound by a sense of responsibility, said Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The prime minister said it was for this purpose that there was a Sedition Act, which was a more effective mechanism than the Internal Security Act.

“With the Sedition Act, at least there are laws to prevent excesses in society. We do not want excesses because if we hurt the hearts of other races, they will react. And you will find the temperature rising in the country. Before you know it, there will be racial conflicts or racial violence,” said Najib in a video uploaded on his Facebook last night.

Najib said he had the opportunity to share his opinion on the issue of “Freedom of Expression” when answering Siti Aisyah’s question during a recent meeting.

Siti Aisyah had expressed her concern that the freedom of speech given by the government to the people had resulted in provocations on the Facebook and Twitter.

She asked the prime minister if he had a more effective mechanism other than the ISA to address attacks which were racial in nature.

Najib said, as prime minister, he was to ensure there was peace, stability and harmony in the country.

“That is why we have the Sedition Act and the Multimedia Act in order for action to be taken (against wrongdoers). But we also want to be seen as giving people space as well in this society. As Malaysia matures, as a society, people want a bit more room to express themselves.

“But as I said, the right of freedom to express oneself should not be at the expense of others.”