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PM: 'Dakwah' can help preserve national unity

RELEVANT: Unity at heart of nation's transformation agenda, says Najib

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DAKWAH can play an important role in uniting and resolving issues among Muslims and between Muslims and non-Muslims, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

In his opening speech at the Yayasan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (Yadim) National Dakwah Awards last night, Najib said Allah had prohibited his people from disunity.

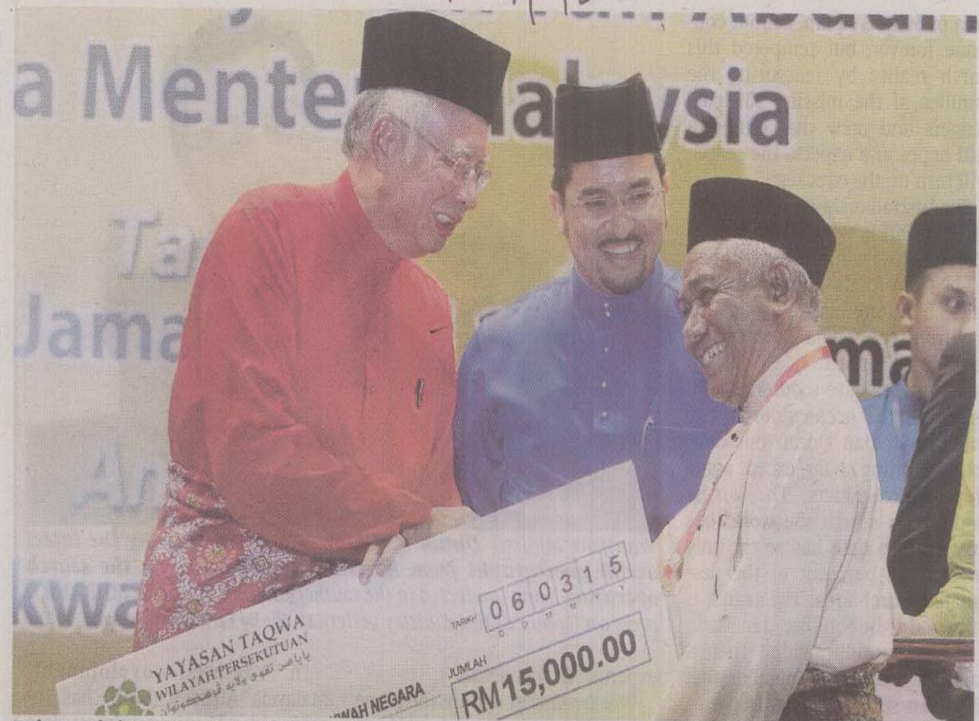
"We must take note of problems that threaten the unity of Muslims, he said, adding that these problems should be handled right from the start so they do not recur.

"I am glad Yadim continues to remain relevant as a bridge between the government and non-governmental organisations in *dakwah*.

"This close cooperation is an indication for Muslims to resolve our differences and celebrate the diversity among Muslims."

Najib said *dakwah* could help resolve issues between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities and preserve unity.

He cited the example of Prophet Muhammad who used *dakwah* to



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak handing over a mock cheque for RM15,000 to the winner of the National Dakwah Award, Datuk Dr Abdul Razak Kechik, at Balai Felda last night. Pic by Sairien Nafis

resolve issues and unite the Aus and Khazraj tribes.

He said this was important for the country to progress.

"Unity is important in Malaysia as it is at the heart of the nation's transformation agenda."

Najib said, without unity, the country and the people would be on the losing end.

He highlighted the important role that *dakwah* played in producing good Muslims who contributed to the nation's development.

Najib paid tribute to all those who were involved in *dakwah* activities for their tireless contributions and sacrifice.

Najib presented awards to outstanding individuals and organisations involved in *dakwah* activities around the country.

The country's first *dakwah* awards ceremony, it acknowledged the contributions in six categories — national, female, young, entertainment, reverted Muslims and non-governmental organisations.

Winners received RM15,000 and

a certificate.

Present at the ceremony were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, and Yadim chairman Senator Datuk Dr Asyraf Dusuki.

Yadim is the brainchild of the country's second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein. It was set up in 1974.

A book titled *40 Tahun Yadim* was also launched at the event which took place at the Merak Kayangan Felda Hall in Balai Felda.