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# PM: Diversity is our strength

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**'MOST TREASURED ASSET':** Harmony advocated by Buddhism in line with our philosophy of moderation, says Najib

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government would continue to protect the harmonious coexistence of the different religions and ethnicities in the country from the threat of extremism.

In his Wesak Day message, which was posted on his Facebook page yesterday, the prime minister said Buddhism advocated harmony and selflessness.

"Buddhism's teachings and the sharing principle are in line with our philosophy of moderation, which we strive to promote and practise in our daily lives in Malaysia."

Najib said Malaysia's strength was its diversity and hoped that it would always be the nation's most treasured asset.

"Long may this continue to be our most treasured asset, and a source of pride and unity for us all. Once again, Happy Wesak Day."

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in his Wesak message, said the day was a meaningful one for Buddhists.

"I call all Malaysians to continue respecting the religious and cultural



**Lin Jai Yee, 9, hanging a note etched with her wishes on a tree at the Thean Hou temple in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bernama pic**

diversity, as well as to strengthen the unity among us."

Muhyiddin said Malaysia's racial and religious tolerance was the basis for the nation's peace and stability.

"The key to a harmonious rela-

tionship in a multi-ethnic community is respecting one another."

He urged the people to refrain from insulting the custom, culture or religion of a particular community, which would lead to disputes.

"In Malaysia, we celebrate our



**A woman burning incense at the Buddhist Maha Vihara temple in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday, in preparation for Wesak Day today. Pic by Dayana Nabila Shaipul Anuar**

racial and religious diversity."

Muhyiddin said this diversity had made Malaysia a model country, where a multiracial and multi-religious community could live together peacefully.

"Tolerance, understanding and respecting one another have been the basis of unity of Malaysians.

"Such a spirit should be preserved and strengthened, especially among the younger generation."

MCA president and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, in his Wesak Day message, said it

was his wish for Malaysians to follow in the ways of Buddha and journey closer to enlightenment.

"It is my hope that the teachings of Buddhism — to strive for peace and perform good deeds — which are the tenets for a strong community, will permeate in our society."

He said of late, seeds of intolerance and prejudice were spreading.

"But, I believe Malaysians are peace-loving people who want to see our multiracial, multicultural and multi-religious nation thrive as we build a better Malaysia."