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PM outlines key to fight terrorism

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KUALA LUMPUR: Policies of moderation, tolerance and understanding are key to fight terrorism especially in a multi-racial society like Malaysia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Najib said Malaysia and Asean partners also believed that resolving the menace of terrorism calls for a comprehensive and long-term strategy.

"Military action alone is inadequate without addressing the root causes and adopting a multi-pronged approach," he said in his keynote address entitled "Confronting Global Terrorism: The Role of Asean", at the United Nations Association Malaysia (UNAM) dinner yesterday.

He said for centuries, South East Asia has been enriched by the assimilation and integration of different people and traditions, with a culture that has welcomed and benefited from diversity.

"We in Malaysia and Asean must strive to maintain this way of life and reject extremism," he said.

Najib also believed that Malaysia and other Asean countries were well organised to deal with such threats.

He said preventive measures, vigilance, public awareness and de-radicalisation campaigns, together with effective rehabilitation programmes were all necessary to combat the threat of violent extremism and terrorism.

Najib said education also played a vital role so that the younger generations grew up being taught the true essence of Islam and other religions, which all advocated peace and justice.

"Instead, democracy with good governance, social justice and an inclusive approach to economic and social development is the best way forward," he added.

Najib said similar approaches were also required in mosques, churches and other places of worship, to make it absolutely clear that there could be no space for extremism and bigotry in the society. - Bernama