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## Unity shines through during festivals, says PM

**PUTRAIAYA:** Malaysia is a peaceful and harmonious country, and these elements can be seen in the festivals celebrated by Malaysians, including Hari Raya Aidilfitri where all races come together to celebrate it, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"I see that when there is a day such as Hari Raya, we get to see the unity among our people that shines," Na-

jib said during a Hari Raya Aidilfitri greeting that was broadcast live from his official residence in Seri Perdana, on Friday.

The prime minister and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, as well as cabinet ministers, had hosted a Hari Raya open house, which was attended by members of the public.

More than 80,000 people attended the event and they were served

with traditional and local delicacies.

The first day of Hari Raya was also the one year anniversary for the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 tragedy.

Flight MH17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17 last year while en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. A total of 298 lives were lost that day.

Najib said no one, including the

Dutch families, would forget what happened and flight MH17 was an incident that would be remembered forever, especially by the families of the victims.

"But, behind this tragedy, it has united Malaysians and made us stronger and better than before," the prime minister said.

Alluding to the July 11 incident at Low Yat Plaza in Bukit Bintang, Na-

jib reminded the people not to believe any rumors and to refrain from acting based on their emotions.

He said it was important for Malaysians of all generations to defend what the forefathers of the nation had built and by doing so, it would allow the country to achieve its objective of being a developed nation by year 2020.