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PM: Silat practitioners our 3rd line of defence

WARRIOR SPIRIT: They can help maintain peace and harmony, says Najib

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SILAT practitioners are the country's third line of defence against internal and external threats, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

Najib, who was speaking at Himpunan Sang Sapurba Segayong Malaysia, said silat practitioners were the third line of defence because of their warrior spirit.

The event, organised by the Per^tubuhan Seni Silat Pusaka Gayung

Malaysia (PSSPGM), was attended by silat practitioners and masters from around the country.

Najib, who is the Imam Khalifah Agong of PSSPGM, hailed the importance of silat, which gave its practitioners five main advantages.

"Firstly, silat builds physical, mental and spiritual strength," he said, adding that it improved a person's skills and focus, strengthened character and instilled discipline.

"Silat also helps strengthen the bonds of unity and brotherhood among Malays in ensuring the sur-

vival and continuing the fight for the Malay cause."

Lastly, Najib said silat planted the seeds of heroism, especially among the younger generation.

Najib said there were parties intent on instigating hatred among Malays and Malaysians.

"But, we must not let our emotions get the better of us to the point we forget our noble and peaceful Malay values."

In this respect, Najib said silat also helped build restraint and called on silat practitioners to play their role in maintaining peace and harmony in the country.

"We must not let certain quarters destroy what our forefathers have built."

Najib presented sashes to silat masters, including the Kipas Emas

Penasihat Agong, Waris Mutlak Agong, Srikandi Agong and many more.

He presented the Ketua Setia Bakti and Setia Bakti to honour non-silat practitioners and non-Muslims.

Najib launched the Silat Gayong Foundation, which is aimed at ensuring consistent funding.

He also launched *Putera Makassar*, a movie about five Bugis Silat warriors.

The movie will begin filming in August.

Present were Domestic Trade, Consumerism and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and more than 12,000 silat Dractitioners.

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