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PM: Unite to fight extremism

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PROGRESSIVE:

We must reject any attempt to disrupt peace and harmony, says Najib

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THE country must pool its resources to combat extremism and educate people on the meaning of Islam, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

Calling on ulama and Muslim professionals to be proactive in countering extremism, Najib said: "Efforts to counter terrorism must not be limited to fighting militant groups and extremists, but also attempt to end the terrorism ideology that they've been propagating."

"As we deal with extremist ideology, all media must be used to explain and educate (those who have strayed) on the real meaning of Islam, which is not a religion of hostility," he said at the national-level Maal Hijrah 1437/2015 celebration at Masjid Negara here yesterday.

The event was held at the mosque for the first time to commemorate its golden jubilee.

The Tokoh Maal Hijrah 1437 was awarded to former chief justice Tun Abdul Hamid Mohamad.

Najib said the ulama and Muslim professionals could come up with action plans, strategies and programmes that the government could implement to rehabilitate those with extremist views and prevent the spread of militant ideology.

"We must unite to achieve our country's aspirations and dreams,



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** presenting the **Tokoh Maal Hijrah 1437** to former chief justice **Tun Abdul Hamid Mohamad** at Masjid Negara yesterday. With him is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department **Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom**. Pic by Ghazali Kori

and not let our differences in political ideology divide us. We must also reject any attempt to destroy the peace and harmony we enjoy. We must not be in cahoots with those spreading rumours (to sow dissension among the people) to destroy the country," he said, adding that *hijrah* meant a shift in mentality to be more progressive and contribute towards the nation's growth.

Najib said Prophet Muhammad's *hijrah* was more than a physical migration from Mecca to Madinah, as it also showcased a transformation in mentality that created a more progressive culture.

"A progressive culture encourages development of knowledge and human capital, trade network expansion, economic development and prosperity."

He said in the spirit of *hijrah*, Muslims should continue to help their fellow Muslims in need in other countries.

"I have sent a clear message in my speech at the United Nation's 70th Annual General Assembly in New York recently on the plight of the Palestinians."

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department **Datuk Seri Jamil Khir**

Baharom said this year's celebration was different from previous years as the 50,000-strong congregation marched from five different locations to Masjid Negara.

Present were the prime minister's wife, **Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor**, Chief Secretary to the Government **Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa** and cabinet minister **S**.