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# 'Succeed by embracing knowledge'

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**CRIPPLING EFFECTS:** Those who do not learn are doomed to become victims of ignorance, says Najib

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**H**ISTORY has shown that the lack of knowledge can cripple a nation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said without knowledge, one would not have the upper hand to defeat one's enemy.

Citing the defeat of the Malacca Sultanate to the Portugese, he said

inferior weapons, such as spears, were used against the enemy, who had firearms.

"For us to succeed, we must embrace Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, master at least two languages and possess higher-order thinking skills," he said at the launch of the Permata Insan College Complex at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia here yesterday.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's De-

partment Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, Usim chairman Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dr Abdul Shukor Husin and the university's vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Musa Ahmad.

Najib stressed the importance of learning from history.

He said the absence of knowledge would have crippling effects on the people, especially in their ability to differentiate between lies and truths in cyberspace.

With the influence of social media

and exposure to contemporary ills, such as drugs, illegal racing and the the Islamic State's ideology, he feared the people could become victims of their own ignorance.

Najib later toured the Permata Insan College built on a 4.6ha site at a cost of RM68 million.

Usim's Permata Insan programme is an expansion of the Permata programme under Rosmah's patronage.

Gifted children can only enter the programme if they pass a test ad-

ministered by Usim.

Currently, more than 100 students study integrated knowledge of *naqli* (revealed knowledge) and *aqli* (rational science) here.

Najib said it was timely for the country to churn out more young Malaysians who had *naqli* and *aqli* knowledge.

"We cannot separate the two, as Islam wants us to have both knowledge," he said, adding that *naqli* and *aqli* would make an individual well-rounded.