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Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	10 AUGUST 2016

PM: Voice opinions via proper channels

NST- 10/8/2016

RAISING ISSUES: Don't hold rallies or sign people's referendum, Najib tells youth

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MALAYSIAN youth who want to raise issues or give feedback to the government should do so via the proper channels, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said the government was open-minded and willing to accept criticism from the public.

"Support the government if you think we are in the right. If you feel we did something wrong or unsat-

isfactory, please advise us. But, advise (us) in a good way. Don't hold street demonstrations or sign a people's referendum," Najib said during the second session of this year's Malaysian Youth Parliament.

He said the people must act in accordance with the Federal Constitution and that the government had the responsibility to uphold the rule of law.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, said the government provided ample opportunities to Youth Parliament members to voice their opinions freely and

without constraints.

"As the government, we are open-minded. If people say we are dictators or autocratic, that's not true. We never said you must support the government just because you are Youth Parliament members," he said.

Najib, during his 10-minute speech, later pledged to perform his duties well and create a better country for future leaders to inherit.

"That is what I will do — to bring Malaysia forward and make it more successful. It is not a failed state. All of you have put forward great ideas and we will take them into account. Your ideas will be presented to the cabinet soon because it is my wish to protect the wellbeing of youths," he said.

Najib, who observed the Youth Parliament session for almost two hours, also commended the parliamentarians' oratorical skills and extensive knowledge on national and international issues.

"The government created this platform as a symbol of how serious we view your opinions. We need to nurture these talents as early as possible and train them to become our future leaders."

The second session of this year's Malaysian Youth Parliament, attended by 115 youth leaders, convened yesterday and will debate four motions over the course of two days.

The first day of the sitting saw debaters presenting two motions pertaining to the need to amend Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 and the need to preserve the nation's sovereignty in light of the South China Sea territorial dispute with China.



PRAYER TIMES

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