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PM: Be more charitable

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RAMADAN: He urges Malaysians to help the less fortunate of all backgrounds

FAREZZA HANUM RASHID

KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is encouraging Muslims to be more giving towards people of all backgrounds during this Ramadan.

Najib said the fasting month was not only meant to bring Muslims

closer to God, but also to help those less fortunate.

"Thankfully, Malaysian Muslims are always generous in helping others, both domestically and internationally," he said in a Ramadan message on his blog.

"Through giving and sharing, we get to feel the struggles and hardships of those in need," he said, adding that fasting increased a per-

son's awareness towards humanity.

Najib said to build a strong nation Malaysians must have religious values as a foundation.

"Thus, Ramadan is an opportunity for us, individually and collectively, to strengthen the spiritual dimension of our lives to achieve success in every aspect of life."

He said among other things that Ramadan taught was to be patient while facing hardship and to be punctual, especially when it came to *sahur* and breaking fast.

"May this Ramadan raise the level of our devotion, which is the main

objective of the fasting month. As Muslims who seek God's compassion, we must welcome Ramadan 1437 Hijri with gratitude and joy, as it is a month filled with grace and blessings.

"I also hope our country will receive Allah's mercy, forgiveness and blessings this month," he said, wishing all Muslims Ramadan *al-Mubarak* and happy fasting.

Najib quoted surah Al-Baqarah, verse 183, of the Quran, which states: "O ye who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may learn self-restraint."