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Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	11 NOVEMBER 2016



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak** with participants of the **National Convention on Race Unification** at Universiti Teknologi Mara in Shah Alam yesterday. With him is UiTM Vice-Chancellor **Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Hassan Said** (left). Pic by Roslin Mat Tahir

## 'TN50 will include all races'

NST-11/11/2016

**SHAH ALAM:** National Transformation 2050 (TN50) will be achieved through national consensus and a grassroots-centric approach.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the visionary move would take into account the interests of all groups and communities in the country, with the Malay and Bumiputera communities playing a core role in race unification.

He said the nation, in moving towards developed-nation status, must see all ethnic groups succeed.

"This is also the reason we put great importance on ensuring that Malays and Bumiputeras are not left behind. It is our responsibility, and the reason we make empowering Bumiputeras a national agenda."

He said looking back at the country's history, civilisation and origin, the aspects were all translated into the Constitution, which incorporated important principles.

He said this was because the two thrusts, namely Malays and Bumiputeras, were the main features enshrined in the Constitution.

Najib said under the Constitution, the Malay language was the official language, but other languages were permitted to be used.

"Islam is also the official religion, but other religions are allowed to be practised, and the head of state is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who is elected from among nine Malay rulers.

"If you accept these principles, then it is easy to go forward... When we want to develop the country, we must develop all races, but do not let Malays and Bumiputeras lag behind," he said when closing the National Convention on Race Unification at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) here yesterday.

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar and UiTM Vice-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Hassan Said.

Najib is the patron of the three-day convention.

The convention, themed "Revisiting the Race Struggle", was organised by UiTM's Faculty of Communications and Media Studies and its Institute of Malay Thoughts and Leadership.

Najib said the interests of all races would be taken into account in discussions on TN50.

He was referring to a report by Khazanah Research Institute that showed that the most effective factor for social mobility was access to affordable education, which benefited all races.

"According to the report, if parents were in the B40 (bottom 40 per cent) group, it did not mean that their children would remain there.

"We must be proud that, in the report, the percentage of Malays and Bumiputeras who have gotten out of the B40 group within one generation because of government policies is high.

"The quality of life of all races can be enhanced when there is access to quality education."

Najib said social mobility in the country was better than in developed countries, such as the United States and United Kingdom.

He said Malaysians must have a hunger for success if they wanted to excel in the global arena.

He said there were lessons to be learnt about the quest for success from the people of China, where competitiveness was high due to their population of 1.3 billion, pushing people to work hard to stay on top of their game.