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PM: Develop all races together

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> But do not let Malays and bumiputra lag behind

SHAH ALAM: Malay and bumiputra-based principles are core aspects in race unification in Malaysia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, adding that both are the main features enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

He said under the constitution, Malay was the official language but other languages were allowed to be spoken freely.

"Islam is also the official religion but other religions are allowed to be practised freely and the head of state is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who is elected from among the 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 the Malays and bumiputra lag behind," he said when closing the National Convention on Race Unification at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) here yesterday.

He said the interests of all races would be taken into account in discussions relating to the National Transformation Vision 2050 (TN50), with the core objectives centred around Malays and bumiputra, Bernama reported.

Najib was referring to a report by Khazanah Nasional that showed the most effective social mobility factor was access to affordable education that benefited all races. He said even if parents were in the B40 group, it did not mean that their children would remain there.

Najib said in order to achieve TN50, the people must be determined to succeed and help create more global players in future.