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# Practise moderation, urges PM

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**MAAL HIJRAH MESSAGE:** Do not misinterpret the concept of 'jihad' says Najib

**KUALA LUMPUR**

**M**USLIMS have been urged to practise *wasatiyyah*, or moderation, and be wary of misinterpreting the concept of "jihad".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said by sticking to true Islamic law, Muslims would not deviate from the right path.

"Let alone (be) trapped in the extreme ideology of the (Islamic State) militant group, nor become too liberal," he said in a message to mark the 1438H Maal Hijrah celebration, themed "Islamic Brotherhood, Fundamental to the Unification of Muslims".

Najib also reminded the people about the dangers of certain parties who sowed the seeds of discord.

"We need to stay away from puppet masters who want to topple a democratically-elected government.

"This is the work of foreigners and their poison darts. It is a new form of colonialism."

Najib asked whether Muslims were respected for their knowledge, morals and civilisation or misunderstood as extremists and terrorists.

For Malaysia, he said, Umno, via the Barisan Nasional government, had for nearly six decades uplifted and practised Islamic teachings.

Najib said Malaysia had become a role-model Islamic country that was both advanced and progressive.

He referred to the "State of Global Islamic Economy 2015/2016" report by Thomson Reuters, which put Malaysia in first place out of 73 countries.

For the first report after the Syariah Index was launched last year, Malaysia received an overall score of more than 75 per cent in various areas.

"However, there is still much to be done in meeting the Muslim agenda, including reinforcing unity, having command of knowledge and skills, and economic empowerment."

Najib said, most importantly, Muslims should strive to create a young generation of *ulul albab*.

"In other words, a young generation that is dynamic, competitive, and with the qualities and drive to restore Islamic civilisation."

Najib said he wanted Malaysia to continue being a role model Islamic country in all aspects, especially in economics, politics and community.

"Muslims and Malaysians must move towards transformation and a paradigm shift, practise a culture of perseverance, discipline and being systematic in carrying out their duties in the face of future challenges." **Bernama**