

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	7 OCTOBER 2016

PM: Change perception of Islam through transparency

NST- 7/10/2016

'SOLIDARITY': Prepare wise leaders to counter extremist threats, says Najib

BALQIS LIM

PETALING JAYA
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Muslim leaders can change the negative perception of Islam through fair and transparent governance.

He said good governance created trust among the people and the more trust created, the greater the opportunity for Muslims to combat ignorance.

"One of the major challenges we must confront are the barbaric and violent acts of terrorists and extremists claiming to act in the name of Islam. These have, unfortunately, skewed the perception of our religion.

"These negative perceptions are then magnified to the public by the media," Najib said in his keynote address at the launch of the World Muslim Leadership Forum 2016 here yesterday.

His speech was read out by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki.

Najib said it was up to Muslims to not only counter these stereotypes, but to face threats posed by extremist and terror groups by being, becoming and preparing wise leaders with great integrity.

"Fear is a terrible, crippling emotion that is instilled to control people. Let us stop it from spreading by standing against such actions in solidarity and strength," he said.

He said there was a duty to create leaders who could set examples that could be followed by people of all creeds and races.

Najib said great leaders not only achieved personal success and greatness in their chosen endeavours, but also carried others with them or used their own platforms to lift others up.

Najib hoped the forum would act as a platform not only to facilitate dialogue between generations, but also to facilitate dialogue across borders and cultures.

"This is our opportunity to learn from and to share with each other, to see what others are doing right, and what we could do better for our respective nations, especially in terms of peace, security and prosperity."

The two-day forum, co-organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, and the Global One Foundation of the United Kingdom,

aimed to promote dialogue and exchanges of views between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

Meanwhile, during a special luncheon at the forum, Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, said adopting the wasatiyyah (moderation) approach had become more urgent for women in leadership.

"Studies have confirmed that a higher percentage of women in leadership or decision-making positions can deliver strong organisational and financial performance for society.

"Women are becoming more educated and they are contributing and leading the economic change as producers, entrepreneurs, employees and consumers.

"Over the next decade, they will wield enormous influence over all sectors of society," she said in her speech read by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Nancy Shukri.