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PROGRAM NEGARAKU

PM: FAKE NEWS A THREAT TO NATION

Some politicians spreading falsehoods via social media to topple govt, says Najib

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has warned of “fake news” peddlers seeking to undermine and destroy the country.

Najib said falsehoods masquerading as “news” were an insidious attack that targeted the hearts and minds of Malaysians.

“Fake news spread via social media by certain political leaders are aimed at toppling the government with false information.

“This is a dangerous threat that we must battle to the end,” he said at Program Negaraku: Komuniti 1Malaysia at Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar here yesterday.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, warned that fake news could portray good acts as bad and controversial.

“In regard to BRIM (1Malaysia People’s Aid), there is a former leader who first described it as *dedak* (animal feed, an euphemism for graft), but then if they (opposition) win, they



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with the winners of the national-level Program Negaraku: Komuniti 1Malaysia 2017 at Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar in Pekan yesterday. PIC BY MUHAMMAD ASYRAF SAWAL

will continue to give out BRIM, and call it corruption again.

“If one is inconsistent and not guided by truth, then he is playing politics with the motive of toppling the government and people will see his true colours,” he said, adding that the government had never relied on fake news or played on emotions.

Najib, in an apparent swipe at a veteran politician who had recently criticised the Johor sultan, said: “*Bila kain koyak, jangan jaga tepi kain*

orang lain.” (One who himself is saddled with problems should not be meddling in the affairs of others.)

In further jibes against certain quarters who had claimed that the government was selling Malaysia’s sovereignty to foreign powers, he asked: “What about today’s visit by Saudi Arabia’s King Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who will bring economic investment to Malaysia?”

Najib said this former leader was responsible for many mistakes in the

Proton Saga national car project.

Najib reminded the audience that the foundation of Malaysians was the country, regardless of their stature.

“If we are not citizens (of any country), then hardship can befall us,” he said, adding that this was what had happened to the Rohingya who were not even considered citizens of Myanmar by its government.

“As citizens, we uphold this nation, our birthplace, where blood may be

shed (in defending Malaysia), our final resting place, Malaysia,” he said to loud applause from the audience.

As Najib ended his speech with *Negaraku*, the audience responded with a loud “Malaysia”, accompanied by applause and cheers.

Present were Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak and Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.