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SENI NEGARAKU EXHIBITION

CHAMPION ARTS MOVEMENT, SAYS PM

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Development must
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P RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has urged the younger generation to champion, develop and sustain the country's arts movement.

He also said Malaysia's success must not be judged solely by its skyscrapers and highways, but also by its citizens' appreciation of the arts.

"(The) rapid development that we are enjoying now must be balanced and move in tandem with our spiritual needs through the appreciation of arts and culture."

He said works of art could instil patriotism in the people.

"We (should) instil the 'Negaraku' spirit in our children as

they are the pillars and driving force of the country as we move towards the 2050 National Transformation," he said when launching the Seni Negaraku exhibition at the National Art Gallery here yesterday.

Najib also expressed hope for the country's next generation to bring glory to Malaysia through the arts.

He said showcases like the Seni Negaraku exhibition could be used to not only promote one's love for the country, but also to cultivate a passion for the arts.

"Hopefully, the platform offered (here) will be utilised to empower and sustain the development of the arts in our country."

He said such art exhibitions acted as an effective visual narrative to make the people feel proud to inherit Malaysia's visual legacy that transcended generations, language and culture.

Najib later presented prizes to nine winners selected from among five million students nationwide in the Seni Negaraku competition, which involved 10,176 schools nationwide.

The competition aimed to develop a spirit of patriotism through the expression of visual arts among school students.

Present were Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz and Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

The Seni Negaraku exhibition, which is open to the public until September, features 88 artworks by 72 artists gathered from public and private collections.

The artworks were identified as significant pieces that highlighted the country's rich history through art.

The paintings are by Malaysian artists Abdul Latiff Mohidin, Ibrahim Hussein, Joseph Tan, Anthony Lau, Syed Ahmad Jamal, Georgette Chen and Redza Piyadasa.

The Reka Negaraku exhibition, which runs concurrently, features 36 artefacts and 53 prints of popular culture memorabilia and everyday items, including matchstick boxes and medicine labels.