

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	04 MAY 2017

PM: OUR STAND IS CLEAR

NST- 4/5/2017

Wala' (loyalty) is core principle for country's leadership, says Najib

AZURA ABAS
AND HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

THREE core principles — wala' (loyalty), wasatiyyah (moderation) and tabayyun (seeking truth) — are needed to create a perfect equilibrium between leaders and the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said these principles could not be separated for the sake of the nation that wanted progress and ultimate success in accordance with what Islam had defined.

"We also need to really understand that wala' (loyalty) is not merely a theory that stands on its own. It is a core principle needed as the basis of a country's leadership.

"I am open to any views and accept constructive criticisms. But, they should not be slanderous, derogatory or malicious aimed to tarnish the leaders' image," he said at the launch of International Wasatiyyah Seminar 2017 last night.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Al-Azhar University deputy sheikh Sheikh Professor Dr Abbas Shuman (left) attending the International Wasatiyyah Seminar 2017 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Wasatiyyah Institute Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Dr Abdullah Md Zinedine.

Najib said wala' must be combined with wasatiyyah and tabayyun for the wellbeing of the country and the ummah.

The prime minister also said the government would not allow itself to be toppled by illegal means.

He said a person who was "too

liberal" was dangerous as he could become a traitor by attempting to topple a government in the name of freedom.

He said Malaysians in general were moderate, fair and impartial, without being zealous and obsessed which could lead to extreme ideologies.

Citing the threat of Islamic State, Najib said the terror cell members were willing to act outside the law and against democ-

racy to overthrow a democratically elected government.

The prime minister said the Federal Constitution had taken into account the interests of other faiths and different races in a multicultural society.

"Unlike some chauvinistic parties, our stand is clear, well-guided and thorough.

"On this premise, we are a government that understands, is responsible and views the people's

interest as a whole including accepting the motion by Pas to include Islamic laws in the country's administration," said Najib.

Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang was reported to have tabled the Private Member's Bill to increase the powers of the Syariah Courts in Parliament last month.

The bill sought to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965.