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# Avoid **extremism** to keep peace, says Najib

> Political, social stability achievable only with interfaith harmony: PM

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**SHAH ALAM:** Religious extremism must be avoided to ensure Malaysia remains a peaceful and a stable nation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He added although there may be some extremists among us, the majority of the people

are committed to keeping the peace intact.

"There will be extremists around us, whether they are Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or Christians but let there be very few.

"We must ensure that extremists do not influence us in any way, and let the majority of Malaysians commit to the true meaning of each of our

religions," Najib said when launching a national Wesak hi-tea celebration attended by about 1,000 people at Samadhi Vihara temple here yesterday.

Najib said Malaysia, as a multicultural nation, has been a good role model for other countries in keeping its peace and stability to move forward.

Malaysians must remain united as the nation's success is achieved through its social and political stability, he said.

"The core of our stability is our togetherness. Without

practising the common values that bind and unite us, we will not be able to achieve it.

"Our future also depends on political and social stability, and it can become a reality only if we have interfaith harmony in this country," he said.

Najib said Malaysia is a "land of hope" and a country with "great opportunities".

He urged Malaysians to set aside differences and build a stronger Malaysia.

"I cannot do it alone as a prime minister, my colleagues in the Cabinet cannot make it on their own, civil society organisations cannot make it on their own, but together we can," he said.

Meanwhile in GEORGE TOWN, thousands of devotees took part in the annual Wesak Day procession yesterday.

The procession began at about 6pm outside the Malaysian Buddhist Association (MBA) premises as devotees comprising young and old held candles and flowers.

A total of 15 floats from various temples were also featured at the event.

Devotees chanted prayers along the route while wishing onlookers "Happy Wesak Day".

The procession passed Jalan Pangkor, Jalan Kelawai, Jalan Burma, Lebu Peel, Jalan Macalister and Jalan Anson before returning to the MBA building in Jalan Burma at about 10pm.

The event was also attended by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and state exco members.



Najib at the event with chief Buddhist monk of Malaysia Datuk Dr K. Sri Dhamma Patana Nayaka (left) and Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia religious adviser, the Venerable Mahinda Maha Thera.

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