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'BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER'

NAJIB: INDONESIA IS LIKE FAMILY

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Malaysia-Indonesia ties should be strengthened for future generations, says PM

JAKARTA

MALAYSIA regards its bilateral relations with Indonesia as family ties that can be likened to the Malay proverb "air yang dicincang tak akan putus" (blood is thicker than water), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

He said although Malaysia and Indonesia had bittersweet moments in their relationship, their

ties had strengthened.

"I am confident that the close and positive relations between the two neighbouring countries will not only strengthen, but go beyond the diplomatic boundaries," he said in a video presented at a Malaysia Day dinner at the Malaysian embassy here on Wednesday night.

The event also marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Indonesia.

It was attended by more than 1,000 people, including Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keru-

ak, Indonesian Education and Culture Minister Muhadjir Effendy, Indonesian Communication and Informatics Minister Rudiantara, Malaysian National News Agency editor-in-chief Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab, foreign dignitaries and the business community.

Najib said Malaysia and Indonesia had many similarities, and shared the culture and language that portrayed the richness of people of the same descent.

The prime minister called on all quarters to preserve and strengthen the close relations.

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MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE

PM offers condolences

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has conveyed his condolences to the Mexican government and those affected by Tuesday's earthquake.

"Deepest condolences to the government and people of Mexico affected by the earthquake," he said on Twitter.

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit central Mexico on Tuesday, killing at least 220 people and leaving thousands injured.

It struck on the anniversary of a 1985 quake, which killed thousands of people and devastated large parts of Mexico City – a tragedy that President Enrique Peña Nieto had commemorated earlier in the day.

The federal government declared a state of disaster in Mexico City and dispatched 3,428 troops to the affected areas there and in nearby states. **Bernama**

He said a relationship that had been fostered for more than 60 years should not be looked at only in terms of official ties, and that all quarters should strive to enhance it for future generations.

Earlier, Muhadjir said although there were ups and downs in Malaysian-Indonesian relations, the leaders always emphasised the need to live in harmony with neighbours.

The Malaysia Day slogan "One

Heart, One Soul" should be applied in forging ties between Malaysia and Indonesia, he said.

The Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia, Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim, said the embassy often organised joint programmes with Indonesia, with the aim of strengthening relations between the people of the two countries.

Guests were entertained with performances by Malaysian and Indonesian artistes. **Bernama**