

# 'RUKUN NEGARA SHOULD BE GOVT'S CORE AGENDA'

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PM: This will ensure national philosophy is practised daily, passed down to the next generation

PUTRAJAYA

**R**UKUN Negara education should be the government's core agenda to ensure that the national philosophy can be practised daily and passed down from one generation to the next, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

In making the call, Muhyiddin said this required a concerted effort to enhance the inculcation of the principles and values enshrined in Rukun Negara, especially in strengthening people's unity.

"The National Unity Ministry and the Communications and Multimedia Ministry can take the lead in executing this agenda through various programmes, initiatives and activities, which are conducted in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, the private sector and civil society.

"By pooling the efforts of all quarters, we can succeed in deepening the appreciation of the Rukun Negara principles and values to strengthen people's unity in this country," he said at the launch of the 50th anniversary celebration of Rukun Negara at Bangunan Perdana Putra here yesterday.

The Rukun Negara golden jubilee celebration, jointly organised by the Communications and Multimedia Ministry, and National Unity Ministry, was telecast live on Bernama TV, RTM, Astro Awani and social media platforms.

Rukun Negara was declared on Aug 31, 1970, by the then Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ismail Nasirudin Shah Sultan Zainal Abidin, to promote unity among the people following the May 13, 1969, incident.

The five principles of Rukun Negara, or the national philosophy, are belief in god, loyalty to king and country, supremacy of the constitution, rule of law, and courtesy and morality.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin reciting the five principles of Rukun Negara at the launch of the national philosophy's 50th anniversary celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Muhyiddin said patriotic Malaysians should always uphold these principles, which they had been closely associated with and had committed to heart since their school days.

He said the five principles of Rukun Negara were listed on exercise books, notice boards, school walls and places where they could be easily read and memorised.

"It is not difficult to appreciate and practise these principles if we are aware of the need to constantly enhance unity and preserve harmony through these principles."

Muhyiddin said the unity among Malaysians had allowed the government to manage the Covid-19 pandemic effectively, and the country's effort was recognised as one of the best in the world.

He said he was touched by people's selfless acts in helping and protecting one another until Malaysia succeeded in overcoming the crisis.

He said if the spirit of solidarity and mutual help continued to flourish, he was confident that the nation could surmount any challenges in future.

"I believe the hearts of all fellow Malaysians are imbued with good values, which call on us to respect each other and love one another as humans and what more among us as citizens.

"Good values must be nurtured and allowed to thrive among the people to strengthen unity among us."

He stressed that the process of building a united nation in a multiracial country like Malaysia was

not easy as there had been challenges before reaching the present level.

"We set aside our differences and conflicts existing in the community. We have cultivated understanding and solidarity among ourselves. In the end, our racial, religious, regional and social status differences did not prevent us from living peacefully and harmoniously in the country.

"This is our achievement, the achievement of the people, which we should be proud of."

Later, Muhyiddin launched the Rukun Negara Golden Jubilee celebration logo.

The logo was projected onto a screen in 3D animation to kick off the 50th anniversary celebration of Rukun Negara.

Symbolising the five principles of Rukun Negara, the logo is a stylised five-stripe red and white tengkolok (Malay headgear), with the yellow crescent and star affixed on its front and enclosed within the figure 50 in blue.

The crescent and star represent the principle of belief in god, while the tengkolok with the crescent and star symbolises loyalty to king and country, supremacy of the constitution and rule of law.

The figure 50 marks the golden jubilee of Rukun Negara and the blue colour symbolises the practice of unity and the principle of courtesy and morality.

Muhyiddin also launched the special stamps of the Rukun Negara Golden Jubilee celebration before proceeding to visit the Rukun Negara exhibition gallery featuring materials and historical pictures relating to the drafting of the national philosophy. **Bernama**