

PM: COVID-19 BRINGS OUT OUR UNITY

Malaysians showed empathy for all, says Muhyiddin at launch of National Unity Policy

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THE challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic have brought to the fore the strength of unity and empathy of Malaysians, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Commending Malaysians for their spirit, he said everyone, in particular frontliners, had demonstrated great empathy for others, regardless of race or religion. This, he said, should be strengthened in the community. He said this at the launch of the National Unity Policy and National Unity Blueprint 2021-2030 yesterday.

The launch was broadcast live on the National Unity Ministry's Facebook page and RTM's TV1. "With the slogan #KitaJagaKi-



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin speaking at the launch of the National Unity Policy and National Unity Blueprint 2021-2030 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

ta, the people have helped the government to spread positive messages, supporting the Movement Control Order efforts and adhering to the standard operating procedures.

"We must continue nurturing this empathetic attitude as we view racial issues from a more balanced and holistic perspective.

"As with other multiracial countries, we sometimes look at issues from a certain race or

group's perspective.

"This perspective needs to be rectified to make it more balanced and holistic and must be instilled through the education system and media.

"Apart from that, we must be wary of racial sentiments being manipulated by politicians."

Muhyiddin said: "This poses a challenge in almost all multiracial countries. (We) must steer away from politicians who strive to gain political mileage through

racial sentiments."

Muhyiddin said Malaysians would not sacrifice social integration and national unity for personal gain, while the government would not compromise on matters that could disrupt national unity.

Describing Malaysians as "agents of unity", he called on all to support the policy and the continued aspiration in moving forward.

"All countries desire unity. Malaysia's image as a multiethnic, multireligion and multicultural country has often become an example of a unified country.

"Despite the differences, competitions and conflicts, the social integration that has existed for so long has sustained the unity to this day, spurring other countries to learn from us.

"The quest for unity is a journey, not a destination.

"Hence, it is important to continue reflecting on our resolve and boost efforts so that Malaysia remains a country with a solid unified foundation not only for the current generation, but also for the future of our children."

He said the policy, with the theme "Unity in Diversity", had three goals.

These, he said, were strengthening unity and national integration based on the Constitution and Rukun Negara; building national identity with sense of self, patriotism, caring, tolerance, being respectful of each other and responsible; and producing Malaysians who appreciate and uphold unity.

He said this was in line with the country's main policies, such as the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.

"I pray that our country will continue to prosper and remain strong as a united and harmonious nation.

"Nurture and strengthen the unity in diversity that we have."

National Unity Minister Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique earlier said the documents were prepared based on feedback from the public, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and government staff nationwide, with its strategic core in line with the Rukun Negara.

It comprised strategies and indicators to instil, measure and maintain unity among the people, she added.

"The National Unity agenda is our joint agenda and it is the responsibility of all Malaysians to make unity a *kebiasaan* (norm)."