

Najib: Emphasise Similarities In Religious Values For Unity
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KLANG, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Wednesday night called on Malaysia's multi-racial society to lay emphasis on the similarities in their respective religious values in order to build a more united Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said although each religion differed in teaching the good points in life, the values were still based on universal aspects such as courtesy, respect for the elders, trustworthiness and diligence.

"If we can emphasise on the common values, then we will have similarities between us. We can develop good citizens regardless whether they are Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Taoists...what is important is being good citizens who love the nation, are loyal to the country, respect the law and other religions," he said.

Speaking at the Selangor Taoist Solidarity Dinner at Pandamaran, here, he said the founders of Malaysia led by Tunku Abdul Rahman were far sighted in administering a complex nation such as Malaysia.

"Thus, the people and leaders must have a tolerant attitude. If we want everything that we demand, we will certainly be divided and quarrel between one another," he said.

In addition, he said Malaysians should have mutual respect for each other's religion and culture as portrayed by the organiser of the event, the Federation of Taoist Associations Selangor, which provided halal food for Muslim guests.

"I attended the ceremony tonight together with the MIC, MCA, PPP, Gerakan (leaders) out of respect for Taoism," he said while expressing his gratitude to the organiser for having drawn about 15,000 people from all races and religions to the ceremony.

Najib said the 1Malaysia concept hinged on inclusive policies, especially in poverty eradication regardless of race in providing aid.

"When the government extended the RM100 (school assistance), every student irrespective of whether he or she is from sekolah kebangsaan, or Chinese, Tamil or religious schools got it, and soon we will give the RM500 assistance to households earning below RM3,000 (per month)," he said.

He said the government had done a lot to ensure that Malaysia would move forward and strive to become a high-income economy.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said business opportunities for the Chinese community had never been limited and this could be seen from their control on a major portion of the country's businesses.

"They are successful because we practise a free economic policy. This ensures peace and stability in Malaysia.

"We are fair to all races. The Chinese succeeded with our policies. No Chinese can say they got rich without the government's assistance," he said.

Besides other races, he said the government also provided land conversion, bank licence, rice licence and sugar licence to help the Chinese community develop their economy.

"This is all the more reason for the people to support what the government has done ," he added.

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