

People Can Learn To Be More Inclusive - Idris Jala
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysians can learn to be more inclusive in their outlook to enhance national unity, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala.

He said inclusiveness, also a core element in the 1Malaysia concept, was an advantage.

Citing Sabah and Sarawak as examples, he said both the East Malaysian states had long practiced inclusiveness, from its political structures to daily life of the people.

"It is nothing new there. We didn't collapse for doing this in Sabah and Sarawak," he said in his talk titled Celebrating Diversity and Managing Polarity at an Intercultural Dialogue here, Wednesday.

The one day event was hoped to promote an open and honest sharing of intercultural experiences, to share knowledge and information about ethnicity, culture and religion, among others.

Meanwhile, Idris also answered a question from the floor on the incident where Pertubuhan Pribumi Perkasa Malaysia (Perkasa) gave out angpows in white packets to recipients at a Chinese New Year celebration last Sunday.

On that matter, he said everyone should learn to be sensitive and respect each other's belief.

"I think if you are really allergic of the colour red and in a situation like this (Chinese New Year) you have to reach for a compromise," he said.

He added that learning about other people's cultural and religious belief will not make a person less devout to his or her own religion.

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