

**Put the people's well-being above all, says Najib**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Political revolution alone cannot ensure positive outcomes, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said such a political awakening, as what was happening in the Middle East, must be coupled with social as well as mindset revolutions.

"We must build strong institutions and stress on values that can strengthen the political system," Najib said in his keynote address at the launch of the international fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) seminar on "loyalty to the leader", near here, last night.

The three-day seminar, starting yesterday, had attracted some 1,000 participants.

Najib said the Arab spring or the Arab rebellions had only aggravated the situation, with chaos and uncertainty now prevalent in the Arab world.

It had also failed to improve the world view about Islam, instead it fuelled Islamophobia further, especially among those in the Western world.

Malaysia, Najib said, had so far been able to counter the negative perceptions about Islam and avoid the stereotype of Islam as autocratic.

He pointed out that since December 2010, the Arab spring had only caused sufferings and hardship to the people.

Najib was saddened to see the affected Arab nations struggling to rise from the chaos and that they would take a long time to heal.

In this respect, he stressed on the importance of being moderate in life, including politics, by avoiding extremism at all cost and putting the people's well-being above all.

Quality leadership in accordance to Islam, Najib added, did not apply to leaders alone, but followers as well.

"A quality follower will churn out a quality leader."

Leaders deserved loyalty, obedience, cooperation and constructive criticism as well as advice to ensure smoother implementation of social progress and avoid chaos in the leadership institution, said Najib.

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