

**Najib: Draw on strength of your faith**  
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**By LOH FOON FONG**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians are urged to draw on the strength of their faith to build the nation together, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"In many faiths, people can find teachings that will instill good values in our nation," he said at the Wesak Day celebration at the Maha Vihara Buddhist temple in Brickfields yesterday.

Najib noted that Wesak Day had been declared a public holiday for the last 50 years, adding that the many public holidays that Malaysians enjoy reflected a diverse society.

He said the Government's 1Malaysia concept and transformation programmes were meant to be more inclusive and sustainable.

Najib also said that it was important for Malaysians to not only tolerate one another but to also accept each other.

"In Buddhism, for instance, Gautama Buddha promoted peace and love but rejected violence and accesses. These are good values that all of us can subscribe to," he said.

Buddhists make up 19% of the Malaysian population, the second largest faith-based population.

MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said that to maintain peace in our country, tolerance, understanding, patience and a shared desire to maintain and protect peace were needed.

Others who attended the event were Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong and Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal and his deputy Datuk M. Saravanan.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, MCA Public Complaints and Services head Datuk Seri Michael Chong, Federal Territory MCA chairman Datuk Seri Tan Chai Ho and former MCA president Tun Ling Liong Sik's wife Toh Puan Ena Ling.

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