

**PM: Cartoonists and animators can contribute to racial unity**  
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**By P. ARUNA**

KUALA LUMPUR: Cartoonists and animators in the country can contribute towards strengthening racial unity through their work, said the Prime Minister.

"I hope our cartoonists will not only portray Malaysia and its people in a way that is entertaining, but also insert subtle messages that can contribute towards nation-building and racial unity," said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his speech at a gathering of hundreds of local cartoonists and animators at the Central Market here Sunday.

He said the artists had an important role to play in society as they had the opportunity to send messages to the people through their creations.

"Even when I coined the 1Malaysia concept, I wanted to engage cartoonists to share the message through their work," he said.

He added that popular cartoonist Datuk "Lat" (Datuk Nohd Nor Khalid) was a good example of a cartoonist who shared messages of unity in his work.

"In his comic, *Kampung Boy*, he was a Malay boy with friends of other races. Even in a crowd scene, there is always a 'Punjabi man' there," he said.

Najib added that he fully supported the setting up of a "1Malaysia Cartoonist Foundation" and that the Government was willing to provide financial assistance towards setting up the fund.

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