

Najib Earns Kudos Over Stance On Anti-Islam Film, Caricatures
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) has praised Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's call for Muslims to remain peaceful and not resort to violence in response to an anti-Islam film as well as caricatures depicting Prophet Muhammad in an unfavourable manner.

In an article, the WSJ noted that the recent unrest in the Muslim world had shown that words could wreak havoc when spoken by the powerful as incitement to violence.

"In the debate over Islam's soul, Mr Najib's counsel of responding to provocation with peaceful protest is welcome," said the opinion piece.

It said the Malaysian prime minister's rejection of extremism contrasted favourably with what it described as "poisonous rhetoric" emanating from some Muslim capitals this past month.

The WSJ article alluded to Najib's Sept 20 blog post with regard to the film 'Innocence of Muslims' and caricatures published by French magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' which have triggered violent protests across the globe.

Najib had urged Muslims to remain peaceful and not resort to violence as a means of showing dissatisfaction.

The WSJ cited the Malaysian leader as saying that "Now, more than ever, each of us has a responsibility to work together for greater respect, tolerance and understanding so we may live in harmony".

It said: "While calling the film and cartoons 'unnecessarily inflammatory to Muslims', Mr Najib allowed that they may not have broken Western laws."

In his blog, Najib had written that "the video in question was deeply offensive and has rightly been condemned by leaders across the world."

The Malaysian leader continued with this observation: "And while Charlie Hebdo may not have broken French law in publishing the caricatures, we question their ethical judgment in deliberately creating further provocation at a time when tensions are already running high."

The WSJ article also alluded to Najib's invitation for people of all faiths to join his 'Global Movement of the Moderates' unveiled at the United Nations General Assembly last year.

It noted that British Prime Minister David Cameron and United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had endorsed the concept.

The WSJ reckoned that Malaysia's push to advertise its religious moderation was companion to its bid to better integrate itself into the world economy.

"It is one of two Muslim states (the other is Brunei) negotiating to join the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership, which according to one study will boost the country's GDP (gross domestic product) by 2.7 per cent," it said.

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