

**Najib Advocates Global Movement For Culture Of Peace**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today said that it is time for a global movement for culture of peace, stressing that it is also time to discard the eye for an eye approach in this changed world.

He said that there was a need to take the movement to every human mind to extinguish the evils of intolerance and prejudice as well as ignorance and selfishness that compelled people to repeat the cycle of violence.

"Spreading a culture of peace, in my opinion, is most critical to the society. If the society is to come out of the shadows of conflict and make a new beginning, its members must be inculcated in a culture of peace," he said.

Najib said this when opening the Third Umno International Forum: "Conflict and Conciliation in the People's Politics - Looking Back or Looking Forward?" in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly 2012 here.

Elaborating, he described culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes and ways of life based on principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity and respect for diversity, dialogue and understanding.

"It targets individuals. There can't be true peace unless the mind is at peace," he said.

Najib said in addition to states and international organisations, actions to promote culture of peace could be undertaken by community and religious leaders, as well as people from all walks of life, such as parents, families, teachers, artists, professors, journalists and students.

The prime minister said that Malaysia was well-placed to contribute to this endeavour based on its promotion of the Global Movement of Moderates with a view to making the voice of moderation supersede that of extremism and intolerance.

Najib pointed out that guided by the values of moderation, Malaysia helped find a peaceful solution to the 40-year conflict in southern Philippines involving the Bangsamoro and the Philippine government.

The peace deal was achieved, he said, as a few key points were met, including both sides must be ready for peace and there was a mind set that they wanted to find a peace solution.

"Then came the question of how or technical aspects in that it would be useful to find a third person and the person must be truly an honest broker. In the case of southern Philippines, they found Malaysia," he said.

In efforts to find peace, there should be an honest peace broker, Najib said, adding that: "In this case (of the southern Philippine conflict), we became the honest broker and we were trusted by the Philippine government and the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front)."

Najib said this could serve as a template for other more complex conflict situations like that in Gaza and Palestine.

The prime minister said that prevention of conflict would, by any standards, be far less expensive than trying to resolve conflict, and it also make much more practical sense.

He stressed that conflict prevention, or even intervention at a very early stage in a conflict, represented the best possibilities for peace.

"If conflict prevention is going to be taken seriously, then early warning systems which will indicate when and where conflicts are likely to take place have to be developed, put in place and taken seriously," he said.

Najib said that conflict prevention must go beyond the military efforts and include political, economic, social and humanitarian measures which would decrease the potential for conflict.

"This demands much greater coordination among all agencies involved and the development of a much more integrated approach to conflict and its resolution," he said.

In a real sense, he said, the ultimate goal in the work of conflict resolution was the achievement of reconciliation.

"To move from a situation where we have reached a peaceful settlement to a new place where broken relationships between groups and even between individuals and countries can be rebuilt, and where healing can take place -- this is the challenge of reconciliation," he said.

On a broader perspective, Najib said that the 20th century had left a legacy of war and conflict among nations, and the 21st century started in a similar way.

"However, it's not a time to despair, for the dream of having a better and safer world has not vanished," he said, urging for renewed efforts to stop the tragedy of war and conflict.

And Malaysia, he said, had been clear, honest and open in its desire to make this world a peaceful place.

"As a small developing nation, this is the role most suited to us Malaysians, drumming up support for people affected by conflict who have been among the biggest victims of bloodshed no matter where in the world," Najib said.

Closer to home, he noted that Asean was now moving towards becoming a community of nations by 2015, and this may well bring down to a minimum the chances of any conflict within the group.

"Sit down to negotiate no matter how complex or how long it takes, it doesn't matter. What matters is that the entire region must be a region of peace and stability," he added.

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