

Najib advocates global movement for culture of peace
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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib 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. Bernama

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