

**RT Concept Contributes To National Unity Success - Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- The concept of Rukun Tetangga (RT), which was introduced in Malaysia since 1975, has contributed to the success of national unity, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said, the foundation for national security and stability was national unity and the two aspects needed to instill it were the right mindset and the role of institutions such as schools, families, sports sector and the concept of RT itself.

"The more of such institutions we establish the more successful we'll be towards forming genuine national unity in Malaysia," he said at the 2013 Rukun Tetangga Perdana gathering at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre, here Friday.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and National Unity and Integration Department director-general Datuk Azman Amin Hassan.

Najib added that RT's power was based on the people's spirit of volunteerism and willingness to sacrifice their time and energy for the safety of the community.

"The country's peace, stability and harmony cannot become a reality without the involvement of every citizen," he said.

He said, despite some parties who only paid lip service about safety, the RT community was willing to serve.

"I salute them for their commitment because it's easy to talk but harder to sacrifice time and effort. Their contribution is truly appreciated, " he said before an estimated 6,000 RT community.

As of Dec 2012, 6,061 RT, 3,447 Volunteer Patrol Schemes, 1,731 Unity Kindergartens and 39 Permata Unity child care centres.

During the event, Najib also launched a Rukun Tetangga Management Guide Book ,published for the first time as reference material by RT members.

Najib and his wife also presented the 2012 Rukun Tetangga Perdana Awards to winners including the Phase 1 Taman Samudera RT Club (A) Batu Caves in Gombak, Selangor for the RT Management category and MPL Housing Estate RT Club, Labuan, for RT Innovation.

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