

**Malaysia Remains Steadfast In Upholding Islam - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the government would continue to drive Malaysia towards realising its vision on the basis of Syariah objectives.

He said that as a country which had Islam as the official religion, Malaysia would remain steadfast in upholding the position of the religion.

"We are determined, in line with the transformation programmes the government has drawn up, to continue to strengthen the propagation of Islam in the country," he said in his message in conjunction with Aidiladha Tuesday, in his blog www.1Malaysia.com.my.

Najib said that Malaysia remained committed to helping resolve conflicts among Muslims in countries which sought Malaysia's role as a mediator, and added that Malaysia's name had become a reference on the world stage.

"We are also spearheading the global peace and moderation movement to curb religious extremism and such," he said.

Najib said Malaysia would strive to emerge as a modern, high-income, progressive and developed Islamic nation.

The prime minister referred to the thousands of Malaysians performing the Haj in the holy land and showered praise on them for having been recognised by the world as model pilgrims.

He referred to the millions of Malaysians at home about to observe Aidiladha, and said he hoped that the ceremony would spur the spirit of sacrifice in championing the religion.

"My family and I pray for those in the holy land to have a good pilgrimage and for those at home to observe Aidiladha with prayers," he said.

Meanwhile, in a similar message, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Muslims in this country must be united and strong to face the many challenges that come in various forms.

He said Muslims face the greatest threat to unity and this can undermine the peace and harmony enjoyed.

The unrest in other Islamic countries due to conflict among themselves should serve as a lesson to Muslims in this country to avoid a similar fate.

"Malaysians are very fortunate because the country is peaceful," he said in conjunction with the Aidiladha celebration.

Muhyiddin said Aidiladha or Hari Raya Korban brings an important message that should be appreciated and emulated by all Muslims.

"Among them is to ensure that the sacrifice is accepted by Allah. Islam requires Muslims to have patience and willing to sacrifice to uphold the religion to achieve success in this life and thereafter.

"Patience and sacrifice based on subservient and devotion to Allah will guarantee success just like the sacrifice made by Nabi Ibrahim when following Allah's command, " Muhyiddin said.

He said Muslims should use this important message as a guide in everyday life in the face of the many challenges.

"With this approach, Muslims will not only enjoy a more comfortable and harmonious life but will always obtain the mercy and blessings of Allah.

"Muslims in Malaysia can become a model to all Muslims. Conduct the sacrifice with sincerity and with the intention to share it with those in need, " he said.

Muhyiddin also wishes Selamat Hari Raya Aidiladha to Muslims in Malaysia and Malaysians who celebrate it throughout the world.

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