

**Do Not Jeopardise Unity, Peace And Harmony For Own Benefit - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak expressed hope that the people would not pawn the prevailing peace and racial harmony for their own benefit.

He called on Malaysians to appreciate and preserve the peace and prosperity the country was enjoying and discard prejudices against each other to ensure stability.

The Prime Minister also urged everyone to stop issuing incendiary statements and actions which are provocative and can lead to conflict and tension with serious consequences affecting peace, harmony and national unity that was built through the sacrifice of our past leaders.

"Of late, we have seen incidents that incite racial and religious hatred, causing tension through the spread of lies and falsehood to pit race against race and religion against religion.

"Though it has not reached an alarming level what had happened during the May 13 riot in 1969, the government is determined to ensure it does not spread beyond control and damage the image of the country," he said after launching the 2014 National Unity programme here Sunday. He said unity and prosperity was built over a long time and not something that came about with a blink of an eye.

Najib said if people do not tolerate or accept the diversity of races, customs and culture in the country, it would lead to serious problems.

"The people should be grateful and heed the lessons from history so that the peace enjoyed today would be sustainable. If we are blind to our history, we will become selfish and destroy the meaning of understanding, independence and future. We will end up without strong identities and values," he said.

The Prime Minister stressed that the Barisan Nasional (BN) led government had always given priority to the welfare of the people, thus would not allow any difference in political ideology to deprive the people of what they deserved.

He cited the opening of the Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Bridge in Penang and the signing of an agreement with the Selangor government to resolve the water crisis.

During the unity programme, Najib also launched the Unity Squad that is aimed at strengthening unity among the various races in the country at all levels.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup and Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

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