

**Islam Promotes Love Among Mankind - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak has reminded Muslims that Islam is an all-encompassing religion and a way of life that promotes love among mankind.

The prime minister said the seeds of love should be sown among Muslims as the basis of unity among the ummah (community), which included Malaysians as a whole.

"Love in Islam does not recognise whether one is a Muslim or not.

"Prophet Muhammad, a model of the greatest leader of all times, has proven that solidarity and unity among all races and religions can be achieved by inculcating love among the ummah," he said in a message in conjunction with the National Dakwah Programme 2014.

In the message, Najib also reminded Muslims to always nurture solidarity and unity through love to avoid chaos.

He said of late, there was growing disunity among the ummah to the extent that love was being forsaken in confronting issues.

"Minor differences are blown out of proportion and inflamed with hatred and prejudice.

"If this is allowed to continue, it will not only sever the bonds of unity among the ummah, but also the country will be torn by chaos," he said.

Najib said the National Dakwah (Islamic propagation) Programme 2014 themed "Sowing Seeds of Love, Attaining Unity" was aimed at portraying Islam as a religion that inculcated love as the foundation of solidarity and unity of the ummah.

He said the term "ummah" was first used in the Madinah Charter by Prophet Muhammad to unify all races whether Arabs or non-Muslim Jews who lived in Madinah then.

"The thrust of unity of the ummah in Madinah was love or 'mahabbah' which was based on understanding the rights and responsibilities of every person to his country," he said.

Najib hoped that the programme would provide avenues and opportunities for Muslims to improve their awareness, understanding and embodiment of Islam as a religion of love and unity of the ummah.

He congratulated the Islamic Dakwah Foundation (Yadim) and state Islamic religious departments and agencies for organising the programme.

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