

Najib Wants Malaysia To Play A Role In Creating International Syariah Maqasid Index
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants Malaysia to play a role in setting up the International Syariah Maqasid Index to measure the commitment of a particular country in implementing Islamic law.

The Prime Minister said the index could play a role in refuting allegations by certain parties that Malaysia's determination in implementing Islamic policies was not in accordance with the actual Islamic law.

"I am greatly puzzled when there are groups who are still accusing us as being not Islamic enough, there are also those who dispute that our policies are not based on Islam.

"It will be good if there is an International Syariah Maqasid Index, where the ulama at the international level can gauge the commitment of every country in implementing Islamic law based on the objectives of the Syariah Maqasid.

"...and I'm confident that if this can be done, the Malaysian syariah index will be at a stage which we can be proud of," he said in his speech when opening the international seminar "Appreciating Moderation In The Framework of Syariah Maqasid", here Tuesday.

Also present were the Chairman of the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, Chairman of Institut Wasatiyyah Malaysia (IWM) Tan Sri Dr Abdullah Md Zin and Felda General Manager Datuk Faizoull Ghazali.

Najib said Malaysia was developed based on the principles of moderation (Wasatiyyah), where the sanctity of Islam was always supreme and in fact accepted by all the minority groups although their number was large.

He said the moderation approach which had been practiced from the early days would continue to be defended based on the five principles of Maqasid Syariah namely to protect the religion, life, mind, family integrity and property, and be confident that it would ensure Malaysia to always be at a level that could be a role model for the other Muslim nations.

"Hopefully, this seminar can think of the way forward on how the measurement based on the five principles of Maqasid Syariah can be adopted to enable every implementation to be measured in terms of their achievements," he said.

The Prime Minister said the government's commitment in implementing moderation was also facing various obstacles, including the demands from the various quarters in the name of openness and liberalism. Najib said the nation was facing threats from certain quarters supposedly in the name of openness, they could do anything and this was a fundamental right which must be provided in total.

He said the government would certainly not accept such ideology as it clearly contradicted the Islamic law and must be rejected by everyone.

"Thus, if there are quarters who try to define fundamental rights and want them to be adopted by every country, we must have our own stand that fundamental rights must be based on Islamic law and this is clearly our stand," he said.

Besides Malaysia, the two-day seminar organised by IWM in collaboration with Felda will see 10 working papers in various fields being presented involving academics from Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

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