

**Malaysia Faces Difficult Situation If Action On Religious Sensitivities Not Curbed -
Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will face a difficult situation, in terms of harmony and unity, if actions that touch on racial and religious sensitivities are not curbed, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the advent of information technology had brought a new phenomenon in the society when the freedom of speech, especially in the social websites, became more difficult to control.

"Now, it is so easy for irresponsible individuals to make comments that touch on the sensitivities of a certain race or religion to an extent that they create tension in the society.

"Negative comments like these easily become viral on the social media and in the end having the potential to create racial and religious animosity," he said when opening the 2014 National Nationhood Education Convention, here Friday.

The text of his speech was read by Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the people should avoid sparking racial and religious sentiments, but to focus on strengthening unity in the country.

"Many countries are in civil war and prolonged conflict because of animosity among the people due to ethnic and religious differences.

"At that time, the country's independence from the imperialists has lost its meaning," he added.

To maintain the present unity, Muhyiddin said teachers should provide a conducive environment for students from various races to mix and mingle as citizens of Malaysia and from then on to appreciate the meaning of unity.

He said attention should also be given towards implementing unity-based programmes through daily activities in schools, including on learning and teaching, spiritual, co-curriculum and sports.

Meanwhile, Idris said the convention, with the theme 'Developing a Nation Building Generation' and held for the first time, was aimed at increasing the level of appreciation for basic values on nationhood through sharing of information among the ministry staff.

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