

Silat Exponents Third Force Of Nation's Defence, Says Najib
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SERDANG, March 24 (Bernama) -- All silat exponents and martial arts organisations are like a third force of defence prepared to defend the nation from enemies either from within or outside, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said even now when the people were in the era of modern contemporary society, the spirit of heroism was very important in the context of national defence.

"Involvement in the martial arts especially 'gayong' has several advantages like building not only physical strength but also spiritual, mental and psyche strengths," he said.

The prime minister was speaking at the Sang Sapurba Segayong Malaysia 2015 gathering programme organised by the Pertubuhan Seni Silat Pusaka Gayong Malaysia (PSSPGM) which was attended by about 12,000 silat gayong exponents from all over the country at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) here today.

Najib said, among other advantages of being martial arts exponents was it stressed on the importance of self improvement in terms of focus and in gaining expertise.

"Silat also establishes a close unity. This is very important for the survival of the Malays and development of the nation which must be based upon solidarity between the Malays and Islam," said Najib who is also the Imam Khalifah Agong of PSSPGM.

Silat also instils discipline, self-reliance, integrity and identity in young children.

The prime minister also expressed his pride in the commitment of the silat gayong exponents nationwide.

At the event, Najib also launched the Pusaka Gayong Foundation and presented garments conveying the greatness of gayong to several individuals including artistes Ahmad Azhar Othman, better known as Awie, and Nasir Bilal Khan.

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