

**Patriotism crucial to peace and stability, says Rosmah**  
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The younger generation should emulate the patriotic spirit of the security forces who are willing to sacrifice themselves for the nation's sovereignty.

President of the Welfare Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (BAKTI) Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor said the spirit of patriotism was critical in ensuring that the multicultural people of the country lived in peace, harmony and stability.

She said a strong sense of patriotism was much needed today, especially since the nation was being bombarded by an explosion of information technology and globalisation.

"Although the nation achieved independence more than half a decade ago, this does not mean that the spirit of patriotism is no longer important for the people," she said at the launch of a ceremony to present Hari Raya Aidilfitri goodies to the security forces at the Siti Hasmah BAKTI Building today.

Also present was BAKTI honorary member Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Malaysian Armed Forces chief Gen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar.

The wife of the prime minister said the spirit of nationalism transcended race, religion, language and culture, and that there was no compromise for it.

"In the case of Malaysia which has always practised democracy, we can argue, have misunderstandings and differences in political ideologies and views, but when it comes to patriotism and a love for the nation, we have to stand as one nation which is united and strong," she said.

Rosmah said if the people did not love the country, they could easily be influenced by the nation's enemies and become divided.

This year, BAKTI has provided 49,500 boxes of goodies for the armed forces in conjunction with the Hari Raya festival next month.

The packages, worth RM498,465, include local delights like rendang daging, sambal ikan bilis, kuah kacang and nasi himpit. – Bernama, June 22, 2015.

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