

**Malaysia Not A Failed State, Says Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is not a failed state as claimed by certain quarters, as several international benchmark surveys have placed Malaysia as among the top in many fields, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

While admitting that the ruling government was not perfect, he stressed that Malaysia did not qualify to be called a failed state or rogue nation based on its commitment to upholding maqasid syariah (objectives of Islamic law) in its administration.

Najib said the label and stigma were deliberately created by some media with vested interest, as though wanting to simply tarnish Malaysia's name.

"I seek the protection of Allah SWT from such an attitude of conceit and arrogance, as we are the best country, (but) we are not perfect, and in front of our young people here, I dare say we are not a perfect government.

"In fact, I also realise that if I don't champion new norms desired by our young generation, I could fail as a leader but I should also stress here that Malaysia is not a failed state."

Najib said this in his keynote address titled, "Wasatiyyah Sebagai Manhaj Generasi Muda Masa Kini" (Moderation as a Way for Today's Young Generation) at the International Wasatiyyah Seminar 2015 themed, "Islam and the Young Generation: Challenges and Hopes", organised by Institut Wasatiyyah Malaysia (IWM), here, Tuesday.

He said that besides upholding maqasid syariah, namely protection of religion, life, offspring, intellect and wealth or property, Malaysia also did not deserve to be called a failed state as a study conducted by an independent body showed that Malaysia was top in 'The Global Islamic Economy Indicator (GIEI 2014-2015) among 70 Muslim countries.

The study also found that Malaysia was ahead by a big margin in the aspect of Islamic economic ecosystem, whereby its Islamic economy was the most mature while its Islamic finance was also well ahead of other countries, he said.

"Are we a failed state when Malaysia was almost at the very top, such as in The Global Competitiveness Report or The World Bank Report of Doing Business?" he asked.

In this regard, Najib hoped that the country's young generation would not thoughtlessly become the carrier of news stories that the country was purportedly heading towards economic or political instability.

He regretted that some among the young generation believed more in the propaganda and bad labels that might have been purposely created by the enemies of Islam through the social media.

As a leader, Najib said, he was always willing to hear from and appreciated the young generation, and had never closed any space to criticise or disagree with him but hoped that they would be fair in their evaluation and criticism.

"Differences of opinion is a normal thing but what is important is not to sacrifice the country's peace for short-term political gains."

The prime minister hence suggested that the young generation be balanced in their views or criticism against the government and leaders, which was in line with the objectives and meaning of wasatiyyah.

"It is alright to criticise or comment on something that is not good, but don't shy away from commending the good things done by the government," he said.

At the event, Najib also launched four books newly published by IWM, including one titled, "Memartabatkan Wasatiyyah", which was written by the prime minister himself.

He also presented the letters of appointment to the representatives of five public institutions of higher education for the setting up of Kelab Wasatiyyah at their respective institutions.

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