

**Stop calling others 'pendatang', says Najib  
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak called on the people to avoid making sensitive racial statements that could hurt one another.

He said if all parties could do this, Malaysia could emerge as a "ray of hope" among developing countries.

"We must consider the feelings of every race in this country; avoid using words that are sensitive just to spite. Like the Indian community who have contributed much to this country, do not call them 'pendatang' or 'immigrants'.

"Because if we call them immigrants, we do not consider them as our countrymen, as having a citizenship to which they are entitled," he said at the Deepavali Open House 2015 held at Dataran Kulim in Kedah yesterday.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

He also pointed out that racial and religious conflicts not only happen in developing countries but also in advanced countries including the United States and Europe.

"Even developed countries have racial profiling as seen in the US and Europe. The process of nation-building must continue from one generation to the next," he said.

He said if the current generation held to the fundamentals outlined by the nation's founders according to the social contract and the Federal Constitution, then Malaysia would surely be successful.

On the new MIC line-up, the prime minister hoped it would work more effectively in serving the Indian community in the country.

The new MIC leadership under Subramaniam, who is also health minister, has been described as a breath of fresh air in the struggle to empower the Indian community in the country.

The Indian community, he said, had developed rapidly through fair, equal and inclusive policies implemented by the government under Barisan Nasional (BN).

Meanwhile, Najib said Indian prime minister Narendra Modi would visit Malaysia soon and "hopefully, he would see how the Indian community here, although merely 7.5% of the population could still play a significant role in the country".

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, Tourism and Culture Deputy Minister Datuk Mas Ermieyati and state government officials were also at the event. – Bernama, November 12, 2015.

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