

**Unverified news leads to slander, disunity, says Najib
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Spreading unverified news could cause disharmony or a climate of fear among the people and could damage the country's reputation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

In his latest blog posting, Najib said the people must ensure news they received was accurate, adding that unverified news could have dire consequences on the economy.

"In terms of relationship among Malaysians, spreading unverified news will lead to slander, and slander is terrible, it will lead to disunity as well as undermine harmony that we have built over the years," he said.

He cited the recent arson attack in Petaling Jaya, which left six cars damaged at a car park near the Taman Jaya LRT station, an incident which was initially said to be due to a bomb explosion.

Following the incident on December 21, rumours quickly spread on social media that a bomb had exploded at the nearby Amcorp Mall.

Najib said the incident was a lesson to the people to be more careful in spreading news, especially through social media and messaging applications.

"With today's technology, it is easy for anyone to spread information, but unfortunately many do not care about the authenticity of the information or news they receive and continue to pass it on.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that any news received is verified and accurate," he said, citing a Quranic verse that urges people to verify news. – December 26, 2015.

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