

**Muslims Should Keep an Open Heart to Tackle Differences of Opinion – PM  
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PUTRAJAYA, March 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today called on all Muslims in the country to keep an open heart in tackling differences of opinion.

He said in Islam, Muslims are allowed to have differences of opinion, to voice out their opinions and to question somebody else's opinions, but it must be done in a civilized and consistent manner to preserve Muslim solidarity.

"Do not let a petty issue become a dispute between us to the extent of causing grudges, hatred and prejudices, as well as inappropriate labels given by one Muslim to another," he said.

Speaking at the opening of the 59th National Al-Quran Recital Assembly here Monday night, the prime minister said the goal to habituate right things and do rightly habitual things must come with a right package and method.

"In the name of doing rightly the habitual things, it is almost certain that the feeling of peacefulness, harmonious and togetherness that we have will be shaken.

"As such, in accordance with our multiracial, multireligious and multicultural society, the spirit of goodwill, solidarity and cooperation should be well preserved," he said.

Najib said the government had always emphasized on having mutual understanding, as well as racial and religious solidarity, for mutual benefit.

"In fact, we have never closed the door to negotiation and collaboration with any quarters, be it an individual, party or even non-governmental organisation," he said.

The prime minister also expressed hope that the organising of this year's Al-Quran Recital Assembly would improve Muslims' observation of the content of Al-Quran so that it would be practiced in their daily life.

Making its debut in Putrajaya from today until March 26, the assembly, themed 'Perpaduan Nadi Transformasi Negara' is co-organised by the Malaysian Islamic Development Department and Putrajaya Corporation.

Each state is represented by a qari and qariah at the assembly, which is also participated by last year's winners Wan Ainuddin Hilmi Abdullah of Kelantan and Siti Husna Hassan from Pahang.

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