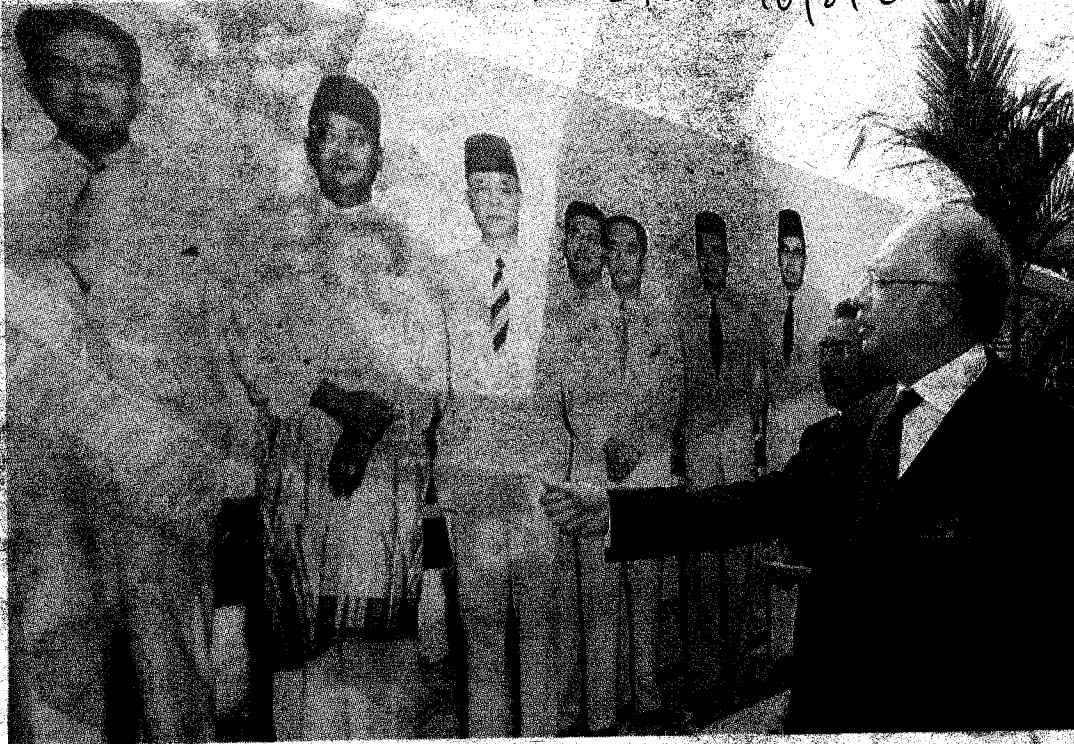


# Western ideas warping young minds

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**NATION'S HEROES:** Najib looking at the posters of the country's heroes at the Tun Abdul Razak memorial in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is National Archives deputy director-general Sidek Jamil.

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Some of the younger generation today have "swallowed" so much Western liberal ideology that they have begun questioning the country's policies and laws which they claim stifle freedom, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Deputy Prime Minister said they had, in the name of freedom, demanded flexibility in some laws and for the repeal of others.

"But it is these laws and regulations which have ensured that the country remained prosperous and stable all this while," he said in his speech yesterday at the Main Struggle Towards Independence exhibition at the Tun Abdul Razak memorial here.

"These people do not consider that

what they have been touting as freedom could cause chaos and misunderstanding. What is important to them is absolute freedom."

Najib said such thoughts stemmed from the lack of understanding and appreciation of the country's history.

"If we do not know something from the beginning to the end, then it's very easy to make assumptions based on what we see on the surface.

"Such actions based on shallow assumptions can be destructive to our people and the country."

Najib said the younger generation should accept that the action taken by the Government was in line with the realities and situation of the country, and not follow the philosophy of others.

"These post-Independence kids do not realise that racial harmony today did not happen on its own. It is the result of thorough planning on the part of the Government to make sure that the sharing of power and distribution of wealth is fair to all races," he said.

"They do not understand how difficult it was for us to develop this country from a poor nation to one that is highly regarded by other countries."

Najib also launched the book *Cabinet Governing in Malaysia* written by Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

The hardcover English copy costs RM100. The book is currently being translated into Malay.