

Headline	UPHOLD UNITY TO AVOID BECOMING FAILED STATE		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	05 Feb 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	74,711
Page No	9	Readership	240,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	440 cm ²
Journalist	HANA NAZ HARUN	AdValue	RM 15,167
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 45,502



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

UPHOLD UNITY 'TO AVOID BECOMING FAILED STATE'

Malaysians must uphold Constitution celebrate diversity, says Najib

HANA NAZ HARUN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA will become a failed state if it does not uphold the principles of unity and harmony, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

Using the analogy of growing a tree, Najib said the "seeds of unity", planted by the country's forefathers through the Federal Constitution 60 years ago, must be nurtured and taken care of.

"Today, we reap its benefits. If we take care of this 'tree', *insyaAllah* (God willing), Malaysia will continue to be harmonious and peaceful.

"We have to water and fertilise the tree.

"Don't chop it down or let termites feast on it, or we will lose our shelter and become a failed state," he said before launching the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia in Kepong.

Present were Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk

Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

Najib said Malaysians, as heirs to the foundation laid by the country's forefathers, must uphold the Federal Constitution by strengthening it.

It was also important, he said, that people continued the culture of respecting and celebrating diversity to have a better understanding of those with different faiths.

"Article 3 in the Federal Constitution says that Islam is the religion of the federation, but others are free to practise their religions in peace and harmony.

"We cannot disrupt or prevent them (from practising their faiths), nor can we insult them, even on Facebook or Twitter.

"(The spirit of unity) is one we must continue and respect.

"It is the bedrock of Malaysia," said Najib.

He said strengthening unity was a process, urging everyone to rein-

force this value and make it a way of life.

"(Former prime minister Tun Abdul) Razak formulated Rukun Negara. Today, we continue it with the concept of 1Malaysia, practised with *wasatiyyah* (moderation).

"We have elevated celebrations like Christmas, Wesak, Deepavali, Chinese New Year and even Gawai and Kaamatan as national celebrations. I have also established diplomatic relations with the Vatican and we have an ambassador there."

Najib said Malaysia was a country that celebrated unity in diversity, adding that if the people held on to this belief, it would act as a foundation for a harmonious country.

Malaysia, he said, was a "success story for unity and harmony" and added that he was committed to making Malaysia even more successful.

"We honour you and your culture, and that is what Malaysia is all about."

Headline	UPHOLD UNITY TO AVOID BECOMING FAILED STATE		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	05 Feb 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	74,711
Page No	9	Readership	240,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	440 cm ²
Journalist	HANA NAZ HARUN	AdValue	RM 15,167
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 45,502

