Elevate unity, harmony, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said unity and harmony should be further elevated so that Malaysia remains as a country that is peaceful and prosperous.

"Don’t ever cut down this tree, because if we do that or allow termite infestation, it will rot and collapse. It is a akin to us not having an umbrella to shelter under and this will make Malaysia a failed state," he said. Najib said this when officiating the 2017 World Interfaith Harmony Week at FRIM’s field in Kepong here yesterday.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and chairman of the Inter-faith Relations Working Committee of Malaysia, Datuk Azman Amin Hassan.

Najib said Malaysia is a multi-racial and multi-religious country whose people were free to practice their beliefs guided by the Federal Constitution.

The Prime Minister said although Article 3 of the Federal Constitution stated that Islam is the official religion of the federation, non-Muslims could practice their religions in peace.

Najib said although Malaysia was full of diversity with plurality of races and religions which was perhaps too complex compared to other countries, it was the unity and harmony of the people that had ensured that Malaysia remained peaceful and prosperous.

"If we, as the inheritors of the founding fathers (continue) to defend the constitution, give meaning to the constitution, empower (the constitution), our nation will continue to be peaceful and harmonious although its diversity and plurality may be too complex compared to other countries," he said.

Najib also expressed his determination towards further empowering the communal and religious unity as was done by past leaders.

"We are looking at continuity, (the late) Tun Abdul Razak Hussein (Malaysia’s second prime minister and Najib’s father) introduced the Rukun Negara (national philosophy), I continued with the Malaysia concept plus the wasatiyyah concept (practice of moderation), which is demanded by Islam. I furthered that with the “moments of unity” initiative,” he said.

He added that various religious festivals were also celebrated and made national celebrations, which symbolised the harmony of the country. - Bernama
PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak launching the 2017 World Interfaith Harmony Week at FRIM’s field in Kepong, Kuala Lumpur while Ministers in the Prime Minister’s Department, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom (2nd right) and Tan Sri Joseph Kurup (left) and others look on. PHOTO: BERNAMA