

Be politically literate, youth told

KUALA LUMPUR: The young generation should be politically literate to help develop the country and maintain the Malay leadership.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his speech which was read by Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, said political participation would be an eye-opener for the young generation on the threat against the Malay leadership.

"Being politically-unsavvy has led many youngsters to remain unregistered as voters while others may choose not to vote even though they are registered voters. Our political dimension is increasingly challenging and uncertain.

"Being aware of the political matters is our shared responsibility because this political arrangement is the one that has retained the Malay leadership until this day," he said during the Peninsular Malaysia Malay Students Union's (GPMS) annual general meeting at Universiti Putra Malaysia near here yesterday.

Najib said Malay youngsters should think about the nation's future and remember how the young generation in the past stood together to fight the Malayan Union. This

spirit should be enlightened for the sake of Malay survival.

He said Malay leaders should establish plans for the young Malay agenda. "Provide the younger generation with the spirit and strong platform so that they would not be slacking."

While acknowledging the challenges of managing the young generation due to technology advancement, Najib said being too dependent on news and information via social media has led them to become more aggressive and impatient.

"The use of technology has become a norm for the youngsters, and sometimes, we tend to put too much trust without checking (on the facts). It will also change the mind of the youngsters to distrust and weaken their confidence in the government. This should be rectified instantly. We don't want to produce a younger generation with negative perception and prejudice."

Najib stressed on the government's commitment on empowering the Malay agenda without neglecting the interests of other races.

He also expressed concern about young Malays engaging in shallow-

minded politics and disregarding the long-term effects to Malays in the country.

"I fully understand that the young generation is full of idealism and enthusiasm. (However) certain quarters with hidden political agenda are inciting them to hate the government," he said, urging GPMS to avoid becoming a non-governmental organisation that was obsessed with racially-charged issues.

Najib also shared stories of the government's efforts to resolve various issues globally.

"During the United Nations General Assembly in New York, I have given Malaysia's commitment to accept 3,000 Syrian refugees. This is what we are proud of.

"Why do we help? Because we are united. Why? Because we have the strength in the form of unity, which is the basis of the country's transformation."

He said up till February, 141,570 out of 152,570 refugees and asylum seekers here were from Myanmar.

"Rohingya refugees in Malaysia are able to perform their prayers without any disturbance from others, unlike in Myanmar."