

DECEPTIVE PROPAGANDA

ZAHID: UNITY UNDER THREAT

Power-hungry people eroding social contract, says DPM

AZURA ABAS
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

D EPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi yesterday warned that the social contract that united Malaysians was under threat.

He said its foundation was being challenged and had become "very flimsy" because there were people who wanted to grab power by distorting the social contract with their deceptive propaganda.

Malaysia, he said, was a multi-racial nation that was respected by the world for its peace and harmony.

"The social order is possible because of the social contract that binds us together for many years.

"I must remind you that if that social contract is broken, there will not only be social disorder, but even worse, as our streets will be tainted by blood and dead bodies.

"Those mad and irrational people out there who are propagating social disorder and tear-



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi accepting a memento from Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Professor Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris at the launch of Human Ecology International Conference 2017 in Putrajaya. Looking on is Human Ecology Faculty dean Professor Dr Laily Paim. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

ing apart our social structure, must be challenged by our citizens," he said at the launch of Universiti Putra Malaysia's Human Ecology International Conference 2017.

On social media, Zahid said it could become a dangerous form of cultural revolution.

"In Malaysia, the social media has become a battlefield between opposing schools of thought, depending on the dimensions they

are battling either politics, religion or social.

"It is a new culture shaping the social profile of societies across the world," he said.

He added that social media had become a platform for the propagation of immoral behaviour, a propaganda machine for inciting hatred and propagating lies.

"Research conducted by our psychologists and experts con-

cluded that 95 per cent of Malaysian terrorists were recruited through Facebook.

"The information they acquired through Facebook are distorted views of *jihad* (struggles in the name of God and Islam) and *tauhid* (Islamic monotheism) fabricated by leaders of terrorist organisations," said Zahid.

He also said social media was not all evil because some good could come from it.