

Covid-19 pandemic a blessing to national unity

KUALA LUMPUR: The current Covid-19 pandemic situation is seen as a blessing that has helped to reinforce the concept of unity among the multi-racial communities in the country.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Rukun Negara Secretariat adviser, Prof Sarjit Singh Gill, said as compared to before the pandemic began, people were beginning to realise that they needed to live together, to help and respect each other.

"Before Covid-19, we saw a lot of debates, conflicts and competitions. Indeed there was also co-operation but it was quite limited. But during Covid-19, we see more and more co-operation among communities. Conflicts are as if they are non-existent, conflicts in society involving racism are not seen now.

"It is time for the Ministry of National Unity to look into the context of how the people are embracing this moment of unity. I

think this is a landscape of change and here I see the strength of the communities such as non-governmental organisations, religious organisations and youths to start using their movement to help society during this crisis," he said.

He said this in the "Ruang Bicara" Programme on Bernama TV titled '#KitaJagaKita - Managing National Unity', here. Also present as guests were University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Faculty of Education, Centre of Education and Community Wellness senior lecturer Anuar Ahmad and the Malaysian Youth Council president Jufitri Joha.

Meanwhile, Anuar said the education system in the country should be reviewed in line with the way society thinks and acts in the current era, for example, such as emphasising the concept of having a nation.