

It's unity regardless: NUCC

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KUALA LUMPUR: No Malaysian is against unity among races, this is the view of National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) chairman Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman (pix).



This, he said, is despite Malay rights group, Perkasa, and Malaysian Muslim Solidarity (ISMA) perpetuating views that can be construed as extreme and could disrupt the unity and harmony among the races in the country.

Samsuddin told *theSun*: "They (Perkasa and Isma) have views that many people do not like but nobody is really against unity; it is just unity from their standpoint."

He said discussion and engagement are vital to build peace and harmony and disagreement between parties with opposing views should not stop them from communicating with each other. As such, he said, the NUCC is constantly encouraging all groups to meet and trash out their opinions with each other in order to achieve mutual understanding and respect between opposing sections of the society.

Samsuddin said the NUCC had already, on March 18, met with the Allied Coordinating Committee of Islamic NGOs (ACCIN), whose chairman is also Isma president Abdullah Zaik Abdul Rahman, and had a "cordial meeting" where they shared their views.

"There are always two sides to any matter and we must accommodate dissenting views," he said, adding there is bound to be differences of opinion but the most important thing is for people to interact to resolve the differences and tackle problems.

"What we need is to foster unity among people of all walks of life by everyone abiding by the Federal Constitution, the Rukun Negara, and the Malaysia Agreement," said Samsuddin.

He said Malaysia had come far since its independence despite its flaws and it is important for citizens to recognise the country's diversity as an asset and work together in unity and harmony for the nation's progress.

He also urged all Malaysians, especially politicians, NGOs, religious bodies, and the media to exercise restraint when commenting on sensitive issues.

HIGH-FLYING JOB

... Workers putting up a giant Jalur Gemilang at the UEM Building in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, in preparation for the 57th Merdeka Day on Aug 31.



BERNAMAPIX

Lawyer puzzled over his runaway maid issue

BY ADRIAN PHUNG
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KUALA LUMPUR: A lawyer is puzzled how his Filipino maid, Cindy Laguda Lozada, who ran away in February, last year, was able to obtain a new passport and visit pass despite him having the original passport.

Speaking to *theSun* at his office here, Datuk Rabinder Singh (pix) asked how it was possible for the Philippines Embassy to process the application of an individual who had a police report lodged against her when she ran away and also had the Immigration Department cancel her visit pass.

Rabinder said he was later informed by the maid agency that the "new" documents were legitimate after it checked with the Immigration Department.

He described this as a serious matter as indirectly it was a national security issue and a threat to the country's sovereignty.

"Imagine if my maid was able to obtain these 'new' documents without the proper documentation or proper procedure, how many more foreigners in our country were

also able to get such 'legitimate' documents," he said, adding the maid managed to get the new passport and visit pass (temporary work permit) issued to her after paying RM6,500 to a Filipino agent for the documents.

The details in the new documents were all the same as in the original documents except for the issuing authority as well as the issuing and validity dates.

He said on learning about it, he lodged another police report requesting further investigation on the matter.

He also lodged official complaints with the Philippines Embassy here, the Philippines President, Secretary of Foreign Affairs from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Commissioner of Bureau of Immigration and the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration. But to-date he has not received any response.



To make matters worse, he said he was later informed by the maid agency and immigration officer investigating the case that Cindy left the country in June while under the custody of the Philippines Embassy.

He is still puzzled how she was able to leave the country without the necessary travel documents and why did the embassy allow her to do so without giving a statement to the Immigration Department.

He said he still has Cindy's original passport and the maid agency has the new passport.

He kept her original passport as he hasn't received any response from the embassy regarding the letter he wrote to them a year ago asking what he should do with it as she had run away.

Officials from the embassy and the department were not available for comments.

Raising health awareness among students

KUANTAN: Guidance teachers in the Young Doctors Programme in schools play a crucial part in raising the level of health awareness among students, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

He said these guidance teachers should have adequate health knowledge and skills to achieve the objectives of the programme.

He said this when closing the Young Doctors Club Guidance Teachers Symposium and the national-level 25th anniversary celebration of the Young Doctors Programme here yesterday.

The text of his speech was read out by Health Ministry deputy secretary-general (Finance) Dr Chen Chaw Min.

Currently about 2,000 primary schools have set up the club involving 52,000 pupils. - Bernama



Members of the Young Doctors Club from Sekolah Kebangsaan Keratong Empat taking 'selfie' with mascots during the closing ceremony of Young Doctors Club National Level Symposium 2014 in Kuantan yesterday.

BRIEFS

ON TRACK TO HIT VMY TARGET

SINGAPORE: Malaysia is on track to achieve its Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) tourist arrivals target by year's end, said Tourism Malaysia director-general Datuk Mirza Mohammad Taiyab. "VMY is on track. We have our challenges starting from MH370, then a few security incidents in Sabah and finally MH17. Despite that, the reaction from neighbouring countries, particularly Singapore and Indonesia, has actually more than covered the setbacks that we got from markets like China," he said after attending a Malaysian production musical theatre "Bahayanya Wanita" (The Dangers of a Woman) at the Star Theatre@ the Star Performing Arts Centre here. - Bernama

POLICE TO ABSORB CORPS ALUMNI

KOTA BARU: The Royal Malaysian Police will absorb the Police Undergraduate Voluntary Corps (Suksis) alumni of public institutes of higher learning to fill posts at the inspector level. Crime Prevention and Community Security Department director Datuk Wira Ayub Yaacob said the special intake would be opened to give opportunities to potential graduates to fill the posts. "We are in the process of studying the implementation, which is expected to be done soon," he said at his visit at the Kelantan police headquarters yesterday. - Bernama

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