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Don't hamper govt's effort to strengthen unity

PETALING JAYA: Perikatan Nasional's proposal for a different National Day theme and logo in the four states under its control will disrupt the country's unity and halt the government's efforts, says Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

National Day, he added, was seen as a national celebration, during which the theme and logo represented a symbol of unity for the people.

"Any proposal to use a different Merdeka theme and logo will disrupt the country's unity and halt the government's efforts in protecting the well-being of the community and progressing to a developed nation," said the National Unity Minister in a statement yesterday.

This year's National Day and Malaysia Day theme of "Tekad Perpaduan, Penuhi Harapan" (Determination in Unity, Fulfilling Hope) conveyed the spirit of unity and patriotism while encouraging love for the nation, Aaron added.

"This noble effort by the government should be supported and shouldered by all levels of society because it is the people who determine whether genuine unity can be achieved or not," he said.

The issue raised by Perikatan represented a social deficit, particularly towards political federalism, said the Kanowit MP.

"Political federalism relates closely to the spirit of togetherness, tolerance and good relations between the federal and state governments, which should be handled with care.

"Leaders of all levels should play an important role as a catalyst for unity, including the administration at the federal and state levels within political, economic and social borders," said Aaron.

Racial diversity in the country must be a strength and a symbol of unity to the world, he said.