

26/08/2003

Najib pays tribute to four PMs

Jason Gerald

PETALING JAYA, Mon. - Malaysia ranks high among all developing nations due to the immense contributions of its four prime ministers, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"Tengku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad are the main reasons we are here today. It cannot be denied the four prime ministers have made contributions to transform and develop the country," he said.

Launching the book Road to 2020 at the Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology here, Najib said there were four types of leaders in the world, namely transactional, populist, charismatic and transformational.

Malaysia has been fortunate because all four of its prime ministers have been basically transformational leaders, he said, adding: "Dr Mahathir, in particular, has been in the forefront in transforming this nation."

Najib said this was a very important message to get across to all Malaysians. He explained that transactional leaders stayed basically static, performed day to day affairs but did not really bring any changes. The populist are those who let the masses provide the leadership.

"The charismatic leaders are those heading revolutions and they become heads of a country. However, they are found to be lacking in leadership as they are basically guerilla fighters.

"But the apex of all leaderships are leaders with transformational or performance-based qualities. These people act as catalyst of change, inspire people and empower individuals to work towards that change."

Najib said Malaysians could be very proud of the fact that past and current leaders have outlined long-term plans which have been the hallmark of the nation's success.

"The basic philosophies, spirit and essence will continue but of course, with some variation," he said.

Road to 2020 provides a review of Malaysia's journey from independence to the present with images of the future.

The book, produced by the university college with its chairman, Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing, as the initiator and mover, features key moments in the nation's growth captured in photographs rarely seen elsewhere.

The photographs are presented in chronological order to highlight the progress from 1957 to 2003. The book also contains development projections up to 2020.

Also present at the event were Lim and the university college's deputy chairman Datuk Sulaiman Othman.