

**Najib: Three criteria to make gov't more innovative**

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has outlined three criteria which must be practised by government agencies in order to be more innovative.

The Prime Minister said the three criteria were those which could bring about a big impact for the nation, were cost savings and shorter cycle times and improvements to the delivery system.

"Based on the trend I have seen in the civil service, I am confident and optimistic that the innovation culture can be ingrained and become common.

If it becomes a reality, tonight's function is well worth it," he said at the Prime Minister's Innovation Award 2010 event held at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here tonight.

Najib said innovation did not exclusively belong to scientists and technologists but was just as applicable to civil servants.

He said as a politician and an administrator, he himself adopted innovative approaches which resulted in producing big impacts and helped save costs.

Citing the walkabouts he practised since taking over as prime minister as an example, Najib said it was not only impactful in being able to meet a wider audience but was also cost saving as it did not need renting of halls and providing meals.

Besides this, he said his online interactions was another innovative approach to get closer the people.

"The world has changed and so too Malaysia. As leaders, we too must change or we will no longer be deemed relevant," he said, adding that if Malaysia wanted to be remain competitive, Malaysians must be innovative.

Meanwhile, the strategic collaboration between the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) and the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) in boosting internal security was hailed as the most innovative undertaking last year and won the Prime Minister's Innovation Award for 2010.

It enabled the two agencies to take home RM1 million, an accompanying trophy and a trophy. Inspector-General of Police Ismail Omar and ATM chief Gen Azizan Ariffin represented PDRM and ATM respectively in receiving the award from Najib.

- Bernama