

Forge genuine partnerships, PM tells Chinese
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KUALA LUMPUR – The Prime Minister addressed the Chinese community today, telling them they have a leading role to play in making the country a high-income economy.

Najib Abdul Razak said they must play that role through economic innovation in genuine partnership with the other communities.

"Through these genuine partnerships, we can attain our goal towards equitable distribution of the nation's wealth. We must do this if we are to achieve our potential and sustain the progress and prosperity we have enjoyed thus far.

"Our faith in Malaysia requires a long-term investment in the future," he said when opening the Chinese Economic Congress on "The Role of the Chinese Community in Achieving the New Economic Model (NEM) and the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP) Targets", here.

Najib giving his speech at the congress today. – The Star

MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek and other MCA leaders were present at the event.

Najib said the government was working to broaden opportunities for all Malaysians.

He also called on the public and private sectors to work together and use the talents of all diverse communities to achieve the national goals.

All parties, including the government, must encourage genuine partnership between bumiputra and non-bumiputra communities to keep the nation moving forward, he said, according to Bernama.

"We must do this because we recognise that diversity is a core strength and the source of creativity and innovation needed to grow our economy," he said.

He also said that the government could not make all the necessary changes alone without the participation of and cooperation from the private sector.

"The private sector plays a vital role in driving the innovation, creativity and investment that are needed to boost Malaysia's global competitiveness and support our goal to become a high-income nation."

The prime minister also urged the congress to discuss how the private sector, including the Chinese business community, could be transformed to be another pillar of national growth and development.

Najib said private sector transformation was also urgently needed because the economy could not expand without its committed and positive participation.

He said that to achieve the Vision 2020 goal of becoming a developed nation by that year, the nation needed to be united, strong and resourceful.

"We must trust in our own abilities and drive transformation at the core to ensure a better future for ourselves and for our children.

"We (the government) have provided the means to do this through the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), the NEM and the 10MP."

Earlier, Dr Chua, in his speech, said he hoped that the congress would come up with resolutions on how they could move the Chinese and Malays through genuine partnership.

At a news conference later, Dr Chua said that to achieve Vision 2020, the various communities must work together to make the nation a high-income economy to ensure that the country could compete at the international level.

"We only want to be fair to bumiputras, and smart partnership is a necessity. As the prime minister suggested, we do not want an 'Ali Baba' concept whereby as we know, for example, many Class F contractors are incapable of competing with big and established companies.

"We do not want a situation where only one community progresses. We want similar opportunities for bumiputras, and this is why we have proposed genuine partnership."

He said that to achieve developed nation status, fair distribution of the economic cake and affirmative action were important.

"Everyone should benefit from the fruits of national development, and no one should be marginalised," he said.

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