

**'Bring home talent' drive starts in January, says Najib**  
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BRUSSELS - Malaysia's Talent Corporation will start its operations in January, marking the start of a concerted effort to woo the return of Malaysian professionals abroad, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said.

He said the corporation would engage Malaysian professionals abroad in a comprehensive manner, seeking them out and addressing their concerns about the prospects of returning to Malaysia.

"Previously, we waited for them to get back to us but this time we will seek them out.

"We will find out what it takes for them to consider going back home and at the same time create more business opportunities and pay them wages that are more aligned with the global wages," he told Malaysian journalists, here Sunday night.

Earlier, Najib, who arrived in this Belgian capital late Sunday to attend the Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) Summit, hosted an Aidilfitri dinner for the Malaysian society in Belgium and Luxembourg.

The prime minister said that so far, the numerous initiatives carried out by the government had been successful in injecting optimism among Malaysians abroad who now saw the opportunities for them to return and contribute to the country's development.

"They see a wider opportunity for them to play a role. I believe that if we can implement our programmes in the near future, their level of optimism will increase because they already like our new plans and strategies," he said.

The prime minister said effective and swift execution of programmes would create a momentum for Malaysians abroad to consider returning home.

"I think the icing on the cake will be how fast we can implement the various projects and business opportunities that have been identified; only then will we be able to attract the Malaysian diasporas to consider going back," he said.

In his speech, Najib told some 250 Malaysians at the event that Malaysia was going through an exciting time.

"We are now turning the bend and going the final stretch towards the year of reckoning ... to become a developed nation by the year 2020," he said.

He said: "Some of you might think about coming back home, and some of you who are married to Belgians, you can bring your spouses with you and they will be allowed to work."

He said that Malaysia's policy was to be more open, saying he believed that a society that was more open would be a society that would thrive in the 21st century.

"A society that is closed up will not attract the best brains; it will attract mediocre people and the good ones would have left the country, and we will be a lot poorer as a result," he said.

In the speech, Najib also told some 250 Malaysians at the event that Malaysia was going through an exciting time.

"We are now turning the bend and going the final stretch towards the year of reckoning ... to become a developed nation by the year 2020," he said.

He also spoke of the 1Malaysia concept and said that it was not a slogan but a guiding philosophy for Malaysia in formulating policies and actions.

"It does not mean that everything will be perfect, or that once we have a concept, everyone will fall in line. You will have situations in which a few individuals will make remarks about certain things.

"But it doesn't mean that it is a failure," he said. "It means that we really need the 1Malaysia concept." - Bernama

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