

Change we must or be left behind, says Najib
Malaysianmirror.com
15 October 2010

KUALA LUMPUR - Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said the people must change their mindset and normal work style to transform Malaysia into a high-income nation.

"The choice before us is clear. Change is not an option but an imperative. We must change or risk being left behind," said Najib when tabling the Budget 2011 with the theme 'Transformation Towards A Developed and High-Income Nation' at the Dewan Rakyat on Friday.

He said that to attain the developed nation status, Malaysians could not remain complacent.

Najib said the government wanted to build a nation where everyone could attain success.

"We want to build a nation where everyone will be able to enjoy the benefits of development. We want a Malaysia where everyone can attain success through hard work," he said in his speech lasting one hour and forty minutes.

Najib, who is also the Finance Minister, said the Barisan Nasional (BN) government would not take the easy way out or sacrifice the nation's long-term interests for short-term popularity.

"Rest assured, we will not leave a country laden with problems to the future generations.

"Thus, the people must realise that they and their children's future is invaluable to be surrendered to irresponsible parties," the Prime Minister said.

Despite the challenges, the government would not retreat from this noble mission, "as truth is in our favour based on our record of excellent performance.

"We are not dreamers. We are realists. Our success is not mere coincidence but the result of clear and careful planning as well as firm implementation," he said.

Pointing out that the 2011 Budget took into account the needs of everyone, Najib said the tabling of the budget was made possible due to the efficient and prudent financial management thus far.

"My Cabinet members and I share the vision to continue the noble tradition of bringing prosperity to all segments of society.

"This is not impossible, neither is it wishful thinking. Facts and history have proven that the Barisan Nasional government is capable of bringing development," he said.

Najib gave the example how Malaysia was transformed from a low-income agriculture-based to a modern middle-income industrial-based economy.

In addition, there was an increase in per capita income from USD260 to about USD8,000; poverty reduction from 60 per cent to 3.8 per cent; and the success in weathering the 1997/1998 financial crisis through firm and unorthodox measures.

The Prime Minister said that since taking over the administration 18 months ago, the government had taken measures to propel the country towards becoming a developed and high-income economy.

He said the transformation process would be implemented in a holistic manner, encompassing economic, social and political aspects.

"The government upholds the concept of 1Malaysia as the fundamental philosophy in driving the nation's development path. The Government Transformation Programme or GTP and Economic Transformation Programme or ETP will be a guiding force in this journey.

The six National Key Result Areas (NKRS) and the New Economic Model with its eight Strategic Reform Initiatives will be the framework for the nation's economic transformation.
- Bernama

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/49959>