

Malacca declared a 'developed state'
Malaysianmirror.com
21 October 2010

MALACCA - Ten years of hard work paid off when this historical state was officially declared a "developed state" on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak made the declaration via tele-conferencing from Kuala Lumpur to thousands of Malaccans gathered at a grand ceremony in Stadium Hang Jebat in Krubong last night.

The crowd cheered and clapped when Najib made the declaration at the auspicious time and date of 2010 hours on 20.10.2010, *The Star* reported.

The event was themed "Developed Malacca 2010: Green Technology State City."

Chief Minister Mohd Ali Rustam said it was a truly proud day for Malaccans as the state was finally recognised as a developed state by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

He added that the state would have a special one-off holiday today. Jon Hall, who has been leading the OECD's Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, said Malaccans had higher than the OECD's minimum levels in virtually all indicators.

In Kuala Lumpur, Najib who made the announcement from the Putra World Trade Centre where the Umno general assembly is being held – said the Federal Government would give full support to Malacca.

"The people of Malacca should be proud that they have a hard-working and visionary leader," he was quoted by *The Star* as saying.

Najib then made the official declaration and signed an electronic plaque declaring Malacca a developed state. This was sent to Mohd Ali via an electronic capsule.

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