

Najib - Ringgit Strengthening Manageable
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PUTRAJAYA -- Any strengthening of the ringgit can still be managed, said Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak here today.

"At present, we are able to manage any rise in the ringgit. On the whole, it has been beneficial to the economy," he told reporters here today.

He said this when asked to comment on the strengthening of the ringgit which is now at RM3.053 to the US dollar and rose 2.8 per cent last December.

However, he added, the government is still monitoring the situation to determine if industries feel they are not competitive, as a result of the strengthening of the local currency.

It is feared that the rise or strengthening of a currency will impact the country's exports.

"To date, generally, there has been no such problem," said Najib, who is also the Finance Minister.

He also said that the strengthening of any currency reflects the strong basic fundamentals of a country.

"(For the ringgit) it is still at a manageable (level) and is based on the fundamentals. The most important thing is, the currency must be based on the fundamentals...a strong fundamental," he added

According to an economist, Manokaran Mottain recently, the strengthening of the ringgit by 2.8 per cent in December was responsible for preventing imported inflation.

High inflation occurs as result of a rise in food and commodity prices globally.

(Bernama)

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