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# On track for 6pc growth

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government is confident that the six per cent projected growth during the 10th Malaysia Plan can be achieved.

With the involvement of the private sector and strategic planning under the 10MP, the country was clearly on the right track, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"I am confident that we will reach the six per cent growth rate under the 10MP."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had put together a comprehensive strategy for the nation and that the 10MP was designed for the benefit of all Malaysians.

"The 10MP has taken the needs of all communities into account."

Muhyiddin said while the equity target for Bumiputeras remained at 30 per cent, opportunities would be available based only on merit.

"There will be competition within



the Bumiputera community and assistance will be given based on their past record, entrepreneurship and skills."

Under the 10MP, the prime minister will be chairing a council to plan, coordinate and monitor the Bumiputera development agenda.

Asked whether foreign investors would be discouraged from coming to Malaysia as the equity target is still in force, Muhyiddin said Bumiputera entrepreneurs would be competing among themselves.

"I can assure them that it will be different as Bumiputera businesses will be required to compete and prove themselves.

"Opportunities will not be available

for those who indulge in rent-seeking. These are among the changes which the prime minister has promised."

Muhyiddin also commended the setting up of the Talent Corporation, which would be tasked with drawing up strategies to attract skilled Malaysians living overseas.

"There about 700,000 who make up the Malaysia diaspora and we are eager to attract them home so that they can contribute to the country's economy."

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the Indian community would greatly benefit from the 10MP.

He was thankful to the government for the additional RM70 million allocation to upgrade Tamil schools.

Samy Vellu said MIC would monitor the implementation of new initiatives under the 10MP. He said the government had fulfilled many recommendations made by the party for the Indian community.

MIC vice-president and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Sub-

ramaniam said the 10MP offered opportunities in skills training, entrepreneurship and educational prospects.

Estate workers, he said, would also enjoy the benefits, including better standard of living, housing and programmes for the youths.

"The opportunity to allow children from poor families to study at '1Asrama' will further boost the 1Malaysia concept."

Dr Subramaniam expressed hope that the squatter issue plaguing the Indian community in urban areas could be addressed through a housing initiative and the RM48 million allocation to alleviate poverty.

The party will register the poor and hardcore poor Indians with the "e-Kasih" portal to ensure that they continue to receive assistance from the government.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu described the 10MP as people-friendly. "What was announced by the prime minister is in line with the 1Malaysia concept."