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# Najib: Innovation is key to creating wealth

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysians must be able to push innovation so that they can generate national wealth and help bring about major changes and transformation to the country. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

"Be they teachers, students or administrators, everyone must be innovative," Najib said in his speech at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil last night.

He said if Malaysians were capable of generating wealth through innovation, then the nation would be able to generate more wealth.

"How do we inculcate the creative and innovative culture in individuals and organisations?"

"It begins with the work we do every day, how we face problems and challenges," he said when closing the Malaysian Innovative Festival 2010 (MI2010) last night.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili and Information Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

Najib said being innovative was a part of everyone's thought process.

He said that a special unit had been set up under his department to encourage innovation, creativity and commercialisation of products, adding that an Innovation Act would be tabled soon to encourage marketing of products.

"The act is needed because a new

discovery would be useless if it was left inside a file or computer.

"The product might have genuine potential but if it does not reach the market, it will not generate revenue for the country. Good marketing skills are essential to make the product a reality. This is part of the government's vision to raise the level of creativity and innovation."

Najib said although the MI2010 concluded last night, this did not mean that people need no longer be innovative because 2010 was the year of resurgence of value and innovative culture.

"If we are faced with a problem or challenge, we should not think of finding a normal solution, we should ask ourselves what is a more creative alternative," he said.

Later, Najib gave away prizes to 11

winners, including innovative children from SK Seri Utama, Batu Pahat, which emerged as champions in the National Level Musical Creativity Competition with their performance of *Aku Yang Terbuang*, which received a prize of RM5,000.

He also gave away a prize of RM5,000, trophy and certificate to the champion in the primary school category for the National Level Innovation Competition, SJK(C) Guong Ann, Sibu, Sarawak, with their innovative product "Multipurpose Hat".

Manap and The Gang, teachers at Institut Kemahiran Mara, Johor, won the first prize in the TV reality programme *Idea: Malaysian Inventors' Challenge*, with the creation of "Hanger Dryer", a type of electric-powered dress-drying tool that can remove creases.