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Jan 1 start for Talent Corp

PM: Govt stepping up efforts to spur economic transformation

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PUTRAJAYA: Talent Corporation Malaysia Bhd - a government agency to attract local and foreign talents to work in Malaysia - takes off on Jan 1.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will serve as chairman of the corporation's board of trustees, which includes Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and Datuk Seri Idris Jala and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Mohd Hassan.

It will be led by chief executive officer Johan Mahmood Merican.

"This is just the beginning. With the establishment of Talent Corporation, we will be able to step up efforts to strengthen Malaysia's talent pool as required for our economic transformation," Najib said when launching the corporation yesterday.

"However, Talent Corporation will not act alone. Talent issues are broad and complex. These goals cannot be achieved by a single agency. Therefore, the Government will continue to engage both industry and talent to ensure our efforts are aligned as we work to achieve our economic goals for 2020," he said.

At a press conference later, the Prime

Minister stressed the agency's role was not just about recruiting Malaysians from abroad, adding that it would also look at how to retain talents in the country.

Najib also called on Muslims, in the spirit of *Hijrah*, to strive for success and innovations that could bring blessings to the community.

In his message on his 1 Malaysia website, in conjunction with Maal Hijrah 1432H (the new Muslim lunar calendar which begins today), the prime minister said Malaysia had given a strong commitment to bring the meaning of *Hijrah* into the nation's transformation agenda.

"Believe it, Malaysia has always been consistent in promoting the concept of moderation and universal peace in the past five decades. All this while, the country's economic and development transformation has demonstrated a philosophy of moderation and balance, which is an awesome achievement and a huge Islamic message at the global level.

"The development achieved has not only been propelled by its economic, social and political sectors but Malaysia's profile at the world stage has also been given a transformation injection that exemplifies moderation."

He said if these could be emulated by mankind, there would be blessings for all.



Talent search: Najib chatting with Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein after launching Talent Corporation Malaysia in Putrajaya yesterday.

Gifted expats to get 10-year resident pass

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia will be introducing a resident pass for highly-skilled expatriates who wish to live and work in the country on a long-term basis.

The pass is also for those who were originally from Malaysia but are no longer citizens, and their children.

The Immigration Department should begin receiving applica-

tions for the pass by April 1, at the latest.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that unlike an employment pass, the bearer of the new pass will not be tied to an employer.

"And it can be issued for a period of 10 years," he said, adding the duration could be renewed.

"Spouses of resident pass hold-

ers can also seek employment in Malaysia. We welcome highly-skilled foreign talent who are able to work with us in driving Malaysia's economic transformation," Najib said when launching Talent Corporation Malaysia.

He said many Malaysians, including fashion icon Datuk Jimmy Choo and Prof Danny Quah, who is department head and eco-

nomics professor at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science, have achieved international success while working abroad.

Najib also announced that the Government would allow selected students in the Public Service Department's (PSD) scholarship programme to serve their bond outside the civil service.