

THE STAR

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# MSC zeroing in on digital economy



Way forward: Najib and council members after the meeting in Putrajaya yesterday. - Bernama

## Goal is to stimulate human creativity, says Najib

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), designed to leap-frog the country into the information and knowledge age, will enter its third phase next year with the focus on creating an innovative digital economy.

It will become the cornerstone for Malaysia's journey towards achieving a fully developed high-income economy by 2020 and is expected to contribute 10.2% to the nation's gross domestic product by 2015.

The decision was reached at the 22nd implementation council meeting (ICM) and the 12th MSC Malaysia international advisory panel meetings chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak here yesterday.

"We have come to a conclusion that the way forward requires us

to start working towards an innovative digital economy, which is impressive and amazing, as much as it is fast and unforgiving to the unprepared," he told a press conference after the meetings at his office here yesterday.

"Our goal of an innovative digital economy is to stimulate human creativity with new technologies, outlets and opportunities.

"These catalysts will, in turn, lead to innovation, increasing productivity for individuals and businesses while boosting their competitiveness in the global digital economy," added Najib.

As such, he said, a well-planned and successfully executed digital strategy was a must to ensure Malaysia was able to continue competing and excelling on the global front.

He said the Multimedia Development Corporation would

be responsible for the implementation of five approved recommendations: developing the architecture for a national innovative digital economy framework; the infusion of technology across all economic sectors in driving productivity and innovation; making Malaysia a vibrant hub for the creation of ICT solutions; ICT empowerment as a source of national competitive advantage; and pervasive use of ICT to increase the quality of life across all communities.

"At the same time, talent development continues to be a prime focus and the recommendations are aimed at improving the quality of graduates entering the workforce and attracting foreign graduates back to Malaysia," Najib said.

He said another crucial decision was to review the immigration policy on work permits for foreign students in the knowledge sector.