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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at a press conference after chairing the first National Innovation Agency governance council meeting in Putrajaya yesterday. — Bernama picture

3 steps to be an innovative nation

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PUTRAJAYA: The government has outlined a three-pronged approach to turn Malaysia into an innovative nation. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

The first step involves creating an "ecosystem" which could act as a catalyst for innovation.

He said this could be achieved with the development of human capital that could think critically and creatively.

The second is adequate funding that can support innovation such as increasing the participation of private equity capital.

The last step revolves around commercialisation of research and development products, including in-

tellectual properties (IPs) turned out by universities.

"We will study around 1,000 IPs and identify which can be translated into a project that can be commercialised," Najib said after chairing the first National Innovation Agency (AIM) governance council meeting here yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and Datuk Seri Idris Jala, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Media Prima Berhad executive director (News and Editorial Operations) Datuk Ahmad A. Talib.

Special Innovation Unit chief ex-

ecutive officer Datuk Dr Kamaljit Singh said the council was in the midst of drafting the National Innovation Policy.

He said a framework was needed for the government to turn the nation into an innovative country to meet the objectives of the New Economic Model, the 10th Malaysian Plan and the Government Transformation Programme, among others.

"The draft is in the right direction but what we are going to do is to take it down to the people to get more input before submitting it to the cabinet for approval."

Kamaljit said the policy was drafted by Malaysian experts from various fields.

The council hoped to finalise the draft in the next three months, he added.