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'Successes the result of Najib's leadership'

PUTRAJAYA: Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) attributed the successful implementation of the government transformation programmes to the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"He is the key to success and he is putting Malaysia on the charge. Programmes like these, unless it is led by the top, will not be successful," said CPTM fellow Sir Charles Masefield yesterday, alluding to the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) and the Government Transformation Programme (GTP).

In praising the transformation programmes, Masefield, a veteran of the Langkawi International Dialogues since 1996, said the African heads of government were amazed that significant changes to the crime rates and the improved education system had occurred within a short time.

Another factor that had driven the success of such programmes, he added, was the high degree of focus on the priorities that were being manifested.

Hence, he said, the results that were being achieved happened at breathtaking speeds.

"A lot of countries can identify priorities but don't have the application that is being demonstrated here."

Masefield also pointed out that the transformation programmes worked well due to their inclusiveness.

The prime minister, he said, did not tell Malaysians what was important but rather asked them about issues that affected their lives.

"He asked, listened and put all the information together and created database statistics, which formed the six priority areas based on the people's input and not the other way around."

Masefield said the mistake in a lot of countries was that governments were telling the people instead of asking them.

On the political commitment by leaders, Masefield said the African leaders were returning to their country with "total political commitment" to adopt such programmes.

Masefield said he would recommend developing countries to emulate Malaysia's transformation programmes.