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# The right time to do it

## Najib: Not too early or too late for initiatives to be introduced

**PETALING JAYA:** The announcements made by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak are part of an early initiative towards the country's political transformation.

The Prime Minister said this came on the heels of government and economic transformation initiatives that had been implemented in the last two years in an effort to turn the country into a modern and progressive nation.

"It is not too early or too late. This is the right time for such initiatives to be introduced.

"We are mindful that certain quarters may find this risky but we are doing this for survival after more than 50 years of Merdeka and nearly five decades of Malaysia's formation," he said in his address in conjunction with the 48th Malaysia Day celebration last night.

Najib stressed that it was without doubt that Malaysia practised a functioning and inclusive democracy where peace and public order were protected in line with the spirit of the Constitution and respect for basic human and individual rights.

He said that as a country, which practised parliamentary democracy, the power to decide which political party would form the federal and state governments was absolutely with the people.

He said after five decades of experiencing Merdeka, the experience, maturity and wisdom of the people in choosing the Government that meets their expectations could not be doubted.

"I often say the days where the Government knows all and monopolises all the wisdom has long expired.

"The Government pledges to remain committed to upholding parliamentary democracy, constitutional monarchy and ensuring check and balance among the three branches of the Government," he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia had come a long way from being a low-income, agriculture-based nation to its current status of a modern industrialised country, adding that its achievements were monumental and significant.

"This is not an excuse that allows us to stop in our tracks. We should not be complacent, comfortable and neither should we rest on our laurels.

"Instead, to ensure the survival and continuous prosperity of the people, let us double our efforts to improve national competitiveness by being creative, innovative and creating new wealth based on self-reliant entrepreneurship," he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians must be thankful that the country had managed to tackle obstacles that threatened democracy and individual freedom such as confrontation, racial riots and communist insurgency.

He said despite these challenges, it did not occur to the Government to change the parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy system and replace it with an anti-democratic system.



**Defining moment:** Najib delivering his speech at Angkasapuri last night.