

Newspaper	News Straits Times
Date	1/3/2012

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PRIME NEWS



Nor Aleya Natasha Hisham, 8, receiving a Jalur Gemilang from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak after she sang the 1Malaysia song during the launch of the Proton Green Challenge 2012 yesterday. With them are Proton Holdings managing director Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Mohamed Tahir (left) and Proton Holdings chairman Datuk Seri Nadzmi Mohd Salleh (second from left). Pic by Iswadi Ismail

Innovation to drive nation forward

NST-1/3/2012

ACTIVE ROLE: Bring research and development to the market, says Najib

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RESearch and development (R&D) will have to be supported by innovations to move the country towards becoming an innovative economy, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of Proton Green Mobility Challenge 2012 (PGMC 2012), Najib said each or-

ganisation, be it private, university or government agency, needed to play more active roles.

He said the PGMC was a good example of how the three main components of advanced societies — industry, academia and government — could work closely together to achieve ambitious goals for the benefit of the nation.

"Innovation cannot happen in isolation. Each organisation has its strengths and weaknesses.

"If we as a nation were to accelerate innovation and be competitive in the global market, organisations need to find ways to collaborate closely towards a common goal."

He added that without R&D and creative innovation, the nation's oil palm and rubber industries

would not have been as successful as they are now.

"Imagine the impact innovation has given to the people.

"Let us make sure that innovation will not stay in laboratories, but be brought to the market."

PGMC 2012 is organised in line with the national green technology policy and national automotive policy in promoting hybrid and electric vehicles.

The challenge is open to university students, with participating teams required to transform a regular Proton Saga into a full electric vehicle.

Each university is awarded a standard Proton Saga, a battery and other equipment, together with RM20,000 as development fund.