



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	10/1/2013

'Country's progress due to strength, stability'

NST-10/1/2013

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia achieved rapid development after 55 years of independence because of its political strength and stability, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He also said progress depended on a line of effective and visionary leadership.

"The government's leadership under Barisan Nasional achieved success after success.

"The success was also based on a power-sharing formula practised since independence.

"The multiracial and multireligious nature of the country is a valuable asset towards becoming an advanced nation," he said in his message in a book titled *Istana Negara: The Symbol of Sovereignty and the Supremacy of the Malay Rulers*, which was launched in a hotel here last night.

The publication was launched by Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Najib said the construction of Istana Negara in Jalan Duta began under the 9th Malaysia Plan to replace the existing palace with a new, specially planned complex.

"We are grateful that with Allah's



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak says the government has achieved success after success

blessings, the government has succeeded in realising the development of a complex that is a landmark and symbol of the constitutional monarchy."

The construction of the new Istana Negara began with a groundbreaking on Nov 16, 2006, by Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at that time.

It was completed and handed over to Istana Negara's management on Oct 20, 2011.

Najib said among the historical

events at the new Istana Negara was the installation of Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on April 11 last year.

"I appreciate the publication of this book on Istana Negara, as its architecture encompasses various aspects of human civilisation as well as being eco-friendly."

Najib hoped the book, written by Datuk Md Nizam Md Sheriff, would be a reference for designers, teachers, enthusiasts and interior art decoration practitioners, as well as Malaysians.

Earlier, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, in his speech, said he was responsible for the Istana Negara project from start to finish.

"When I was Agong in 2002, I suggested it to then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. I said the palace project was long overdue and he said I should do it.

"In 2004, when Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi became prime minister, he encouraged me to see the project through until after my tenure as Agong ended," he said, adding that it took eight years for the project to materialise from planning to construction.