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2013 IN REVIEW



Success across the board

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PROSPERING THE PEOPLE: Indicators show nation may attain high-income status before 2020, says Najib

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THE National Transformation Programme (NTP) continued to record steady progress last year, placing Malaysia well on track to emerge as a high-income and developed nation earlier than the 2020 deadline.

In unveiling the results of the Government Transformation Programme 2.0 (GTP 2.0) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), the two key components of NTP, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government would continue to make the best decisions and plans to ensure that Malaysia remained competitive and successful through further transformation initiatives.

"Looking back on last year's achievements, I am confident that the nation is on the right track to attain high-income and developed status by 2020.

"In fact, several indicators have shown that the nation may achieve its goal earlier than expected if everything goes accordingly. GTP and ETP were conducted in one synergy to transform the country under NTP," Najib said in his speech when unveiling the annual reports for both programmes, which was telecast live from Angkasapuri here last night.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Minister in the Prime Minister's

Department and Performance Management Delivery Unit (Pemandu) chief executive officer Datuk Seri Idris Jala, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ali Hamsa, as well as cabinet ministers and their deputies.

Also in attendance were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Liow Tiong Lai and several Barisan Nasional leaders.

To sum up the positive outcome of both programmes, Najib, who is also finance minister, said GTP 2.0 recorded a 104 per cent achievement rate across its National Key Result Areas, which included efforts to fight corruption, raise the living standards of low-income households, improve urban public transport, improve rural development, assure quality education and address the rising cost of living.

Najib said the government was committed to achieving its target of US\$15,000 (RM49,000) per capita income for Malaysians when the country completed its mission to become a high-income nation.

According to the Global Innovation Index, Najib said, the country's innovation ability rose by seven per cent from 2011 to last year, placing Malaysia in 32nd place among 142 countries.

He shared the overview of the outcome of ETP, which was rolled out to spur the country's economic activities.

Najib said for the past three years, a total of 196 projects, with a committed investment of RM219.3 billion, had been launched so far.

"These projects are expected to



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the unveiling of the Government Transformation Programme 2.0 and Economic Transformation Programme annual reports at Angkasapuri in Kuala Lumpur last night. Pic by Khairul Azry Bidin

contribute RM144 billion to the gross national income, creating 440,000 new jobs.

"The inception of ETP also created new history in the Financial Stock Exchange-Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index by achieving a record high 66 times in the past three years."

Malaysia's progress in the business sector also received international recognition, when the country was ranked among the top 10 in

the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business list in 2013 and 2014.

Najib also congratulated individuals who had successfully transformed their lives by taking part in the programmes under ETP and GTP, urging others to emulate them.

Najib lambasted several quarters for twisting facts on the soon-to-be implemented Goods and Services Tax (GST).

He assured the people that they

did not have to worry, as the GST could help the country rake in more revenue to improve the people's livelihoods.

"To counter these claims, I have directed the Finance Ministry to disseminate real facts on GST through seminars and invite experts from other countries that have successfully implemented the tax to explain the true facts.

"GST will not be imposed on essential consumer goods, such as rice, sugar, salt, flour, cooking oil, salted fish, bus, rail and light rail transit fares, education and health services.

"I would like to ensure the people that I will listen to their feedback on the implementation of GST."

Najib took a swipe at the opposition, which had hurled allegations and criticisms against the government over its initiatives to help the people.

"They (the opposition) will embark on thousands of ways to belittle the government."

Najib assured that his cabinet would spare no efforts to protect the welfare of the people by initiating efforts to boost the nation's economic growth.

"Together with the deputy prime minister and cabinet, we will intensify efforts for the prosperity of the people. We are a responsible and trustworthy government, and we keep our promises.

"We do not wish to be a populist government that is reckless and has no qualms about making empty promises." **Additional reporting by Zaidi Isham Ismail and Balqis Lim**