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Najib: I am in good company

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SUPPORT: Many international bodies, individuals and institutions believe in Malaysia's success, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak says he is not alone in his efforts to promote Malaysia's economic success.

Responding to recent criticisms against the government's administration in managing the country's wealth, Najib said the support was evident in the number of investors and bigwigs from international financial institutions present at the Invest Malaysia 2015 here yesterday.

"There has been some talk lately about how it can be lonely telling the truth. Well, I can tell you that I don't feel lonely standing here in front of you all today (yesterday).

"And, when so many respected international bodies, individuals and institutions have confirmed their belief in Malaysia's success and have honoured us by rating us so highly, I don't feel lonely at all.

"In fact, I feel I'm in very good company," said Najib to roaring ap-

plause when delivering his keynote address yesterday.

He said the government's measures to create a stable political and economic environment had been fruitful.

"I am equally confident that given the well-known stability and growth of Malaysia under this government, I will be able to look forward to the pleasure of your company next year and for years to come."

Najib related approaches by the government to bridge income gaps and improve economic disparity for a more practical and equal distribution of wealth.

For example, he said, the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM) programme had helped the less fortunate and spurred economic growth.

"We are carefully targeting subsidy delivery so that we can empower the less fortunate. This is why we introduced direct cash transfers, or BRIM, as a transitional measure.

"It is a measure that has been used in many countries and it ensures that the money goes to those who need it the most, rather than blanket subsidies. Recipients use it to buy necessities, which not only benefit them, but also has a local multiplier effect and contributes to our economic growth."

Najib said various methods were employed in the past to achieve similar results, but they had caused the country to lose billions of ringgit instead.