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Let's restore people's trust, says Najib

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> Efforts must be made to handle public perception of government: PM

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PUTRAJAYA: The government needs to make an effort in handling the people's perception of it, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said political transformation involves restoring people's confidence in the government.

"Some quarters said this is a 'confidence deficit'. And it is our duty to restore this and increase the confidence of the people in the government," he said.

Najib pointed out that the government is also facing a challenge in tackling the

social media.

"The challenge is that the perception in politics is always stronger than the reality of it, and as a team, we should overcome it," he said at the Prime Minister's Office monthly gathering here yesterday.

Najib also applauded the appointment of his new Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid in the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

"I welcome him and I have faith and trust that his credibility will help strengthen the Cabinet further in fulfilling the aspirations of the people," he said.

He also thanked former deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the other ministers who were dropped from the Cabinet for their services and contribution to the people and country.

He said it was time to move forward to focus on the wellbeing of the people.

Meanwhile at the Finance Ministry's Hari Raya open house, Najib sought an apology and forgiveness if there were any "mistakes" made by the ministry.

"If there are any mistakes, *kekhilafan* (misjudgements) or rudeness all this while, both (finance minister II) Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah and I would like to seek an apology and forgiveness."

He said the ministry has a huge responsibility in facing the world economic situation, which requires attention to detail in executing the job.

"We must understand the heart of the rakyat, and (Allah-willing), as a team, the ministry would be able to carry out its responsibilities effectively," he said.

Najib then welcomed Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani onboard the ministry, and joked that "the freshie needs to go through ragging".