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Thumbs-up for Pemudah

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> Its efforts to facilitate ease of doing business have been well recognised: PM

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PUTRAJAYA: The Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (Pemudah) received a pat on the back from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak for its sterling services in expediting the public-private sector initiatives in tandem with the Economic and Government Transformation Programmes.

He said Pemudah's work may not be noticeable at times but it is appreciated by both the government and corporate sectors.

"The ideas it introduced are integral to the government's policies and processes to maintain Malaysia's economic trajectory," he said when launching the Pemudah Annual Report 2014 yesterday.

Pemudah, which was set up on Feb 7, 2007, is co-chaired by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president Datuk Seri Saw Choo Boon.

Najib said Pemudah's efforts to facilitate the ease of doing business in Malaysia have been recognised by international bodies such as the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and the Institute of Management Development (IMD).

"Despite some naysayers who wish to talk Malaysia down, this is the real story of our economy - years of record investment, sound fundamentals, diversification, reform, sustainability and inclusivity.

"These credible and influential reports highlight Malaysia's attraction as a preferred investment destination and are testament to the private-public partnership epitomised by Pemudah, which forms the foundation of Malaysia's economic growth," he said.

Najib said there is no room for complacency if the government is to deliver

its promise of a peaceful, prosperous and progressive Malaysia.

"The resilience of our people and institutions, the determination of our government and the blessings we have been showered with have been crucial in bringing us to where we are today," he said.

Najib noted that the government is beginning its last lap in its journey to become a high-income status nation by 2020.

"The challenge grows ever larger in a globalised and hyper-connected world.

"No country can insulate (sic) itself if it is to progress and prosper," he said.

He said the volatile prices of commodities, crisis within the euro zone, shifting balance of power, spread of terrorism and climate change are among some of the threats faced by Malaysia today.

"But I am confident that we Malaysians are up to this challenge. Our track record demonstrates that we can, and will, overcome whatever hurdles placed in our path," he said.