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Newspaper	The Star
Date	3 July 2015

Najib: Let's work together to tackle social inequality

PUTRAJAYA: The Government and the private sector have to work together to better address today's social issues, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said that with the nation progressing rapidly and social dynamics changing, both sectors needed to collaborate to find innovative solutions to improve the lives of the rakyat.

He made the call at the launch of the Social Public-Private Partnership (Social PPP) initiative, which is under the National Blue Ocean

Strategy and aims to address social inequality.

As Malaysia progressed towards a developed nation status, societal dynamics were becoming increasingly complex, said Najib.

He said both sectors could no longer work in silos if the lives of the people were to be improved.

"We need fresh perspectives and creative solutions. Most importantly, we need to work together."

Social PPP, he explained, was a social service approach that would tap the strengths of the Government

and the private sector, as well as social-purpose organisations, to tackle social disparities.

With this model, both sectors "align their resources in terms of funds" and leverage on creativity, passion, skills and experience of social-purpose organisations, he said.

Najib said Social PPP was also important as one of the six game-changers in the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) was "Translating Innovation to Wealth", which focused on societal innovation.

The Star - 3/7/2015
"As envisioned in 11MP, Social PPP is the starting point for promoting a whole-society approach and a social financing model to addressing social issues.

"Leveraging on the power of partnerships and recognising the strengths within different sectors is essential. Through that, the impact for the rakyat can be exponential," Najib said.

For a start, the Government and several corporations have pooled together RM1mil, which will be used to fund pilot projects under

the initiative.

Najib said the projects would involve education and capability development of youths.

Agensi Inovasi Malaysia and the Public-Private Partnership Unit would spearhead the Social PPP projects.

Seven companies - Credit Suisse, Hap Seng Group, YTL Foundation, Hong Leong Foundation, Westports Malaysia, Yayasan Siti Sapura Husin and Digi Telecommunications - are the Government's partners in the projects.