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People's priorities main focus

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> 11th Malaysia Plan to address cost of living, education, security, among others

PUTRAJAYA: The priorities of the people, especially with regard to the cost of living, education, security, public transport and rural infrastructure remain the focus of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Najib, who is scheduled to table the 11MP in the Dewan Rakyat on May 21, said that there would be a special focus on technical and vocational education and training.

"Our ambition, which will be reinforced by the Education Blueprint, is to produce well-

rounded and balanced graduates who meet the needs of industry.

"I'm in fact looking at models in technical and vocational education and training in other countries, including Europe, which have successful track records in recent years," he said at the Business Leaders Dialogue Session at the Prime Minister's Office, here yesterday.

Najib said a "people's economy" was not complete without the support of the private sector in raising incomes, generating employment opportunities and facilitating



Najib chairing the Business Leaders Dialogue Session at the Prime Minister's Office, Putrajaya yesterday.

career advancement and development. "As we look ahead of the 11th Malaysia Plan, which will take us through the next five years, Malaysia's economic fundamentals are strong and our national transformation agenda puts Malaysia on track to achieve Vision 2020," he said.

Najib also expressed confidence that Malaysia's outlook is fully justified, with the GDP remaining strong and expected to record between 4.5% and 5.5% this year.

He also expressed his intention to gradually reduce corporate tax to boost

Malaysia's competitiveness and this would require the country to expand its income base from different sources, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"It will take time ... but I am confident that once we iron out initial problems and abuses, it will be seen as a necessary step.

"Those who suggest otherwise and attempt to stir up disaffection on this issue (such as GST) are the ones being irresponsible. No one should play politics with an issue so vital to our country's future," he said. - Bernama