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Be ready to face 2015, Najib told civil servants

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by R KAMALAVACINI

CIVIL servants have been urged to prepare themselves for greater challenges and threats next year in areas such as peace, security and harmony, corruption and power abuse, and national solidarity.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak has also urged civil servants in practising high performance culture.

"It is most appropriate for us to look back at what we have now achieved in our performance and what we can do in 2015, so that they would be better than our performance in 2014," said Najib at the final monthly assembly of the year

for the Prime Minister's Department at Putrajaya yesterday.

Generally, Najib said there were a number of successes achieved over the year, one of which he highlighted was the commendable 6.1% growth in the country's gross domestic product for the first nine months of 2014.

"It is the highest among the Asean member countries," said Najib adding that remarkable successes were also noted in the implementation of Government Transformation Programme, Economic Transformation Programme, the Blue Ocean Strategy, and securing a non-permanent member seat in the United Nations Security Council.

Meanwhile, Najib said the government will table a special bill and amendments to existing bills such as Security Offences (Special Measures) Act in the next Parliament sitting to increase the level of security in the country.

He said that in recent times Islamic State (IS) ideology has been a great threat for the country whereby a number of Malaysians including lower ranks civil servants were influenced, but actions had been taken to curb it.

"The threat from the so-called IS militant group is very serious and most dangerous to the extent whereby the government decided that a white paper be tabled in Parliament on the matter," he said.

On another matter, the prime minister said that necessary amendments will be made to the laws related to corruption next year whereby heavier penalties will be imposed against those who offer or give bribes.

"While we have targeted the receivers, the givers should also be severely punished because corruption can destroy all that we have built in this country," he said.

Najib stressed that even

though Malaysia is ranked at 50th place in Corruption Perception Index; out of 175 countries, issues pertaining to corruption and power abuse are still alarming.

The prime minister also explained that the government has decided to retain Sedition Act 1948 to avoid conflict between multi-races and religions in the country, and not to obstruct democracy or downplay opposition coalition.

Najib said that there are many irresponsible people in the country whom create tension among the society that need to be controlled.

"We have to maintain peace, harmony and national security due to increasing polarisation. We cannot relax the provisions of the law. If we observe, the Opposition is still free to do anything or spread and strengthen their position. This means that democracy is still fresh in Malaysia," explained Najib.