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PM: Have faith in govt decisions

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**DOING WHAT IS RIGHT
FOR THE PEOPLE:
Implementing GST
will boost nation's
income, says Najib**

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THE government must have confidence to do what is right for the people and the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said, however, the outcome from such plans and programmes might not be instant and could only be seen after a certain period.

"I am confident, based on our track record and achievements, we will achieve our goals even though we may have doubts to take such steps or have yet to reap the fruits of our labour.

"But, (we must) have faith that in the long and short terms, the decisions we made are right.

"We need the extra revenue that can strengthen the country's income.

"People should not be worried, as the money will be used for the benefit of the *rakyat* and nation," he said at the monthly gathering of the Prime Minister's Department.

Najib reiterated the significance of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the well-being of the *rakyat* and the nation.

Although GST might not be popular in the short term, he said, efforts were being made to tackle rising issues, including taking action against traders raising prices.

In this respect, he said, more must

be done to explain to the people how GST could boost the nation's competitive edge.

"When our position is strong, the market will have confidence in our economy and we have additional resources to move forward."

Najib said the additional income would give the government an option to lower individual taxes, adding that it would also provide the means for the government to consider reducing corporate tax to raise Malaysia's competitiveness.

"Corporate tax in Thailand has gone down to 20 per cent and Singapore is at 17 per cent. Thus, we also have to do the same for us to be more competitive."

Corporate tax in Malaysia is at 25 per cent.

He assured the people that they would be kept in the loop on how the government planned to use the extra income gained from GST.

"We are one team having the same goals. I will be tabling the 11th Malaysia Plan on May 21, where we will outline our commitments for the next five years."

On the implementation of the Government Transformation Plan and Economic Transformation Plan, Najib said there had been fruitful results.

They include a six per cent economic growth, creation of 1.5 million jobs, lowering of the unemployment rate and a reduced deficit of 3.5 per cent last year from six per cent when he first took over as prime minister.

"(And), we are on track to have a balanced budget by 2020."

On the 26th Asean Summit, Najib said, Malaysia as the Asean chairman had proven itself capable of leading the grouping, drawing praise from all Asean leaders.

He added that Malaysia had managed to showcase its leadership in working towards establishing an Asean community.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin arriving at the monthly gathering of the Prime Minister's Department at Dataran Perdana in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail