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'Digital Malaysia' on track by 2020, says Najib

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's aim to become a developed digital economy by 2020 is well on track, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said the country's digital economy contributed 17% to the national gross domestic product (GDP) last year, which is

the target set for 2020.

"The digital economy significantly enhanced its contribution to the GDP, from 16.38% in 2013 to 17% last year, based on the latest ICT Satellite Account figures released by the Department of Statistics.

"Considering that 17% was the 2020 target initially set in 2011, it is evident that our digital economy is heading in the right direction," said

Najib in his opening remarks at the 27th MSC Malaysia Implementation Council Meeting yesterday.

Najib said MSC Malaysia - the national ICT initiative - played a crucial role in driving Malaysia's digital economy, contributing RM295bil towards the country's revenue, RM283bil in investments and 147,000 jobs since 1996.

"MSC Malaysia continues to

attract investments from world-class and cutting-edge companies in a wide range of industries.

"I am confident that MDeC (Multimedia Development Corporation) will continue to play an important role as a catalyst for ICT and the driver of the digital economy," he said.

With Malaysia facing a talent gap in ICT, Najib, who is also Finance Minister, called on Malaysian

youths to be "digitally savvy", adding that schools must emphasise digital literacy skills and computational thinking.

"For Malaysia to build a vibrant digital economy, it is critical to have a robust enabling ecosystem consisting of world-class ICT talent to meet growing technological demand and digital infrastructure for seamless connectivity," he said.