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'Build TN50 into national policy'

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Rais supports Najib's move to chart the country's future

By **NURBAITI HAMDAN**
and **SIRA HABIBU**

newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The 2050 National Transformation, or TN50 as envisioned by the Prime Minister, should be built into a national policy, says Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim.

"We must support TN50. But the details must be worked out. We should have more ideas to build it up into a national policy," he said.

The former Cabinet minister disagreed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had "abandoned" Vision 2020, a brainchild of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He's (Najib) been living with Vision 2020. You cannot simply blame Najib for being what he is, because he is in a premier position," he told reporters here yesterday.

Dr Rais, who is special adviser to the Government on socio-cultural matters, however said he disagreed

with the hostility between Najib and Dr Mahathir.

"The two should not quarrel anymore. Because one depended on the other, for survival. And now that Tun M is in the periphery, we should take account of the success within his time and we are grateful for Vision 2020," he added.

Najib had announced when unveiling Budget 2017 that a national discourse to chart the country's future direction would be launched soon. He said the discourse will be conducted by the Youth and Sports Ministry under the PM's patronage.

Prominent banker Datuk Seri Nazir Razak also supported the proposal.

"As I understand it, TN50 will be a platform for national discourse among the young generation to chart the future of the nation.

"It is a great idea. I anticipate that the Government will engage a diverse group of people from across society and the political spectrum in



a forum where discussions are open and debates robust.

"There are of course some elements in the thinking behind the NCC2 that I would like to bring to the attention of the TN50 project team once it is established," the CIMB Group chairman added.

Nazir had recently proposed that the NCC2 (National Consultative Council 2) should be set up.

The National Consultative Council (NCC) was set up in 1970 after the May 13, 1969 riots to "establish positive and practical guidelines for inter-racial co-operation and social integration for the growth of a Malaysian national identity".

SEDAR Institute chief executive

officer Lee Chun Hung said the TN50 plan was timely to ensure continued development, and to put the nation on the right track towards long-term progress.

"A series of national discourse on TN50 would encourage ideas, public participation and focus in preparing the nation to achieve what we are aspired to be in the next three decades.

"After witnessing excessive politicking and diversion, TN50 would bring a much needed sense of mission and togetherness to enable progressive and comprehensive national transformation to take place," he said.

Parti Amanah Negara secretary-general Anuar Tahir questioned the rationale behind pushing for another idea without achieving the targets set in Vision 2020.

"We are supposed to reach developed nation status in four years' time.

"What happened?" he asked.