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# PM shares Malaysia 'growth story' with UK investors

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**TOP SALESMAN:**  
Najib urges fund managers to invest more in Malaysian equities and bonds

LONDON

**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak turned into Malaysia's top salesman yesterday, sharing Malaysia's "growth story" with dozens of United Kingdom fund managers and foreign direct investors.

The prime minister, accompanied by the who's who of Corporate Malaysia, kicked off his London roadshow by telling investors that Malaysia was the preferred place to invest and to do business.

His hectic day began at the historic Marlborough House, now the headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat, where he met fund managers and business leaders in back-to-back sessions.

It was also a nostalgic moment for Najib when Lord Jonathan Marland, chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, showed him a framed picture of his father, the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, attending a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London more than 50 years ago as acting prime minister.

He also received a courtesy call from the new Commonwealth secretary-general Patricia Scotland at the same venue.

But it was back to business soon after, telling some 28 fund managers that they should consider investing



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Bursa Malaysia breakfast session with fund managers and business leaders in Marlborough House, London, yesterday. Bernama pic**

more in Malaysian equities and bonds to benefit from the country's "growth story".

In fact, some of the questions during the closed-door session, arranged by Bursa Malaysia and Maybank Investment Bank Bhd, focused on Malaysia's economic growth strategies going forward.

Looking beyond the country's continuing economic success, the fund managers — who collectively manage funds valued at US\$77 trillion (RM31 billion) — are keen to know what are the government's plans to support future economic growth.

According to some fund man-

agers, Najib's response was quite clear — Malaysia will continue to build capacity, raise productivity, boost small and medium enterprises, and develop talent and skills.

In fact, foreign funds have been slightly bullish on Malaysia lately.

Najib said there had been some RM6.1 billion in total net inflow of foreign funds in the first four months of this year.

About 28 fund managers attended the Bursa Malaysia breakfast session yesterday, in what was the largest turnout in the exchange's Invest Malaysia roadshow series so far this year.

In his opening remarks, Najib told

the fund managers that the country's economy was expected to grow 4.5 per cent this year, well within official forecast.

He also said the government would continue to rein in spending, maintain fiscal discipline and keep the fiscal deficit target on track.

At a separate investment forum organised by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council and Sime Darby Bhd, Najib said despite the "noise level", the government had been delivering.

He also took to task critics at home for what he said was the "over politi-

cising" of issues.

"Politics is always lively in our country, but if issues are overly politicised — as they have been — the reality of Malaysia's continuing success story can be harder to see."

Najib then was driven to the other side of the Thames to launch Eco World International's iconic Embassy Gardens property development project.

He was also due to hold closed-door meetings with the chief executives of Standard Chartered and the Shell group before attending a dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Jeffrey Richard de Corban Evans.