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Najib: Govt saved **RM3.5b** in seven years

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> PM spells out success of Malaysia's Blue Ocean Strategy

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PUTRAJAYA: The government has saved over RM3.5 billion within seven years of implementing the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS).

Announcing this yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said Malaysia needed to make a paradigm shift from old policies to one with a "blue ocean" of new opportunities.

Citing examples, he said converting underutilised buildings into Urban Transformation Centres (UTC) had saved the government RM1.5 billion, with 15 one-stop centres now operating nationwide.

"UTCs have transformed the working practices of the government to make sure we deliver services in as convenient a manner as possible," he said in his keynote address at the International Conference on

Blue Ocean Strategy (ICBOS) here yesterday.

Najib said the re-positioning of 7,400 police officers from desk-bound duties to front-line security had saved the government RM1.3 billion, which otherwise would have been spent on hiring, training and paying that number of officers.

He said police-military collaboration and facility-sharing have also saved the government around RM700 million.

Najib also took a swipe at his critics, saying there should be a clear break from past policies, claiming that if he had continued with them, the country would be "swimming in an ocean of red".

"Some who, out of stubbornness and belief that only they can be right, prefer to run Malaysia's economy down, because they do not want to acknowledge the success that change

has brought.

"Some pretended to believe that the government had a wide enough tax base without the Goods and Services Tax (GST), but it didn't. That's why we had to introduce it," he said.



Najib noted that his defining challenge has been to ensure the country is not only successful, but that its citizens are happy.

"A successful Malaysia, yes, but also happy Malaysians, with challenging and meaningful jobs, a sense of fraternity, and the knowledge that both reward and responsibility come from uniting as a harmonious and increasingly prosperous society," he said.