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It's time to move on, says Najib

PM: We must work to realise the country's agenda

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PUTRAJAYA: It is time to "move on" from controversies and issues, said the Prime Minister, adding that the people were depending on the Government for progress and a better country.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak also reminded civil servants to hold on to the Government's commitment to put the people first, and called for work to realise the country's agenda.

When Najib took office in 2009, he introduced a theme for his administration, "People First, Performance Now".

Najib said the country needed to "move on" and work towards achieving the people's agenda, pointing out that various issues that were raised, including those on his administration and 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), had been answered.

"The Government of the day gets support from Parliament. The 2016 Budget was passed and received convincing majority support.

"As we enter 2016, let us not dwell on these issues. Let us move on because we have big agendas to meet; agenda for the country, for the people and for the well-being of all of us," he said when addressing staff of the Prime Minister's Department.

On 1MDB, Najib said solutions came in the form of the signing of various agreements.

"What is important is that it is settled without using public funds. I have asked for six months and today, we can see issues involving 1MDB being resolved," he said.

Prior to the tabling of Budget 2016 last October, there had been talk of attempts to block its passage. This would have been seen as a vote



Focused: Najib addressing staff of the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.

of no confidence against the Prime Minister, who was facing criticism over 1MDB.

Najib said while anticipating that 2016 would be another challenging one for the country due to falling oil prices, the strengthening of the US dollar and a slowdown in China's economy, the Government would look at what could be done to soften the impact on the domestic economy.

This includes ensuring optimum use of government funds and boosting public sector productivity through creativity and innovation, he said.

"Optimising spending doesn't just mean taking austerity measures and making cuts. It means we must see how every ringgit we spend can result in great impact not only to the Government but also the

people," he said.

To ensure projects were on schedule, a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa would monitor ministries and agencies to see how delays and weaknesses in implementation could be improved.

In calling for unity and peace, Najib said sensitive issues must be resolved quickly and not be allowed to become a "thorn in the flesh" that could cause tension, particularly in terms of race relations.

He also paid tribute to the security forces for maintaining peace and order, pointing out that thanks to their hard work, there were no incidents of terror and violence in the country last year.