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PM: Adopt automation to boost productivity

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'LONG TERM': PM advises businessmen to reduce dependency on foreign labour

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P RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said companies should reduce their dependence on foreign labour as a way to boost production.

He said businessmen should instead adopt greater automation and new technologies in their operations to increase their productivity.

"I have heard your problem, that you want more foreign workers because more workers will help you increase your production and bring in more revenue.

"But I would also like you to look at the long term, to be less dependent on foreign workers," he said when opening the annual meeting of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia here.

Najib said companies could raise their level of productivity with new technology, such as robotics to ease

reliance on manual labour.

He said he wished to see companies in the private sector give greater emphasis on productivity in the years to come.

"We need to compete at a much higher level than now."

Najib said the government would ensure that it would be easy for investors to do business in the country.

He said he was against excessive bureaucratic red-tape for businesses.

"If it (bureaucracy) impedes business from functioning and makes it more onerous, I do not think that is the right way to go about it," he said.

Najib said the laws, especially

the implementation, should also facilitate the objective of easing the way of doing business.

He said the government was also committed to ensuring political stability, racial harmony and unity were preserved so that businesses could grow in the country.

He added that the business community could follow the concept of 1Malaysia to initiate joint ventures involving the various races such as between the Chinese and Malays.

"When you create wealth together, you can share the wealth and you have a common interest."

This, he said, would strengthen racial unity besides making business prosper in the country.