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STRENGTH

# PM: COUNTRY MUST BE MORE RESILIENT

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A strong Malaysia can overcome global uncertainties, says Najib

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**T**HE country has to be more resilient in its approach to ride out global uncertainties, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said Malaysia was exposed to external factors that were beyond its control despite the World Bank's forecast that the global economy would grow at 3.4 per cent this year compared with 3.15 per cent last year.

He said the country was exposed to uncertainties such as geopolitical risks, unpredictable global finance, slow growth of developed nations and new policies introduced by the United States's new administration.

"These circumstances require us to look at factors that are within our control. We need to find ways to toughen up our national resilience to

face such uncertainties.

"We can focus on fundamental factors that can enhance our strength. One of the factors that can boost our national resilience is our ability as a government to execute and deliver projects and programmes.

"This is the reason I have declared 2017 as the 'Year of Delivery,'" he said at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly gathering.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong and Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Najib said in the execution of projects for the people, an "all hands on deck" approach was needed for better coordination among ministries and agencies.

"For instance, if we are a central agency like the Finance Ministry, we have to ensure that allocations and



(Top) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak speaking at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly gathering at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI ISMAIL

(Right) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak witnessing the signing of a Host Country Agreement between the government, represented by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali (seated, left), and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, represented by its Deputy Secretary-General Brooks Daly, at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. Looking on is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said. BERNAMA PIC



cash flow for ministries are sufficient to implement programmes.

"As a central agency, we also need to look at procedures and processes. Is there red tape in internal processes that we can review and improve?"

Najib said in bolstering Malaysia's resilience, he was aware of other factors that contribute to the effort, including the country's harmony, national unity, the people's commitment and their patriotism.

He said he wanted the public sector to make prompt and accurate decisions that would produce better results for the people.

Earlier, Najib wished Chinese civil servants a Happy Chinese New Year.