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ETHICS

Science council endorses Code of Responsible Conduct in Research

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PUTRAJAYA: The National Science Council (NSC) yesterday endorsed the Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research (MCRCR).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in voicing his support for the code of ethics, said it should be the main source of reference for researchers in Malaysia to uphold the reputation of a research.

"We have been hearing reports of misconduct by researchers who plagiarised and twisted facts in their researches.

"Such unethical behaviour should be avoided," he said in his opening remarks before chairing the NSC meeting.

Present was Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau.

The MCRCR covers all aspects of researches, principles and practices of responsible conduct, including on

how to manage wrongdoings.

Last year, the country was shocked by reports of research fraud that implicated four researchers from Universiti Malaya (UM).

In its internal investigation, UM concluded that there were duplication and/or manipulation of almost all the figures (images and graphs) within the original Scientific Reports paper and across three other publications authored by the group of researchers.

On another matter, the NSC has agreed to have a National Space Policy to ensure the space sector could benefit and contribute to the growth of a new economy.

With the policy, it will allow better planning and development in the national space industry.

Najib said following the success of Malaysian astrophysics PhD student, Nur Adlyka Ainul Annuar,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak chairing the National Science Council meeting at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI PUTRAJAYA

in the field of astrophysics, the National Space Policy would enable the country's aim to excel in space science.

Nur Adlyka was among a group of astronomers who discovered evidence of black holes in our cosmic backyard.

The prime minister also highlighted the importance of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math-

ematics field to get the nation ready in facing the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The World Economic Forum, he said, had projected some 65 per cent of children in primary schools would secure new jobs that did not even exist today.

"It is obvious Malaysia's future development and progress require us to master science and technology.

"This is needed so that our younger generation can adapt and continue to be competitive in their future undertakings," he said.

This was why the NSC was pertinent to ensure the country's emphasis on Science, Technology and Innovation continued to flourish in line with mainstream global development, so that Malaysia would not be left behind, he said.