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PRECIOUS ASSET

# GEN Y NEEDS PARADIGM SHIFT, SAYS PM

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They need to think outside of the box to adapt to global economic change

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has reminded Malaysia's 11.8 million-strong Gen Y population that the future of the country depends on their ability to undertake a paradigm shift to face future challenges.

Addressing a crowd of 10,000 youth here yesterday, Najib said it was important for Gen Y to adapt to change

in a rapidly changing global economy by thinking outside of the box.

He said according to a recent study, 65 per cent of today's children in primary schools would eventually be employed in jobs that had yet to be created.

"Gen Y must undertake a paradigm shift to prepare for the future of Malaysia's economy.

"The current generation was trained to fill existing jobs but we must encourage the younger generation to create their own jobs," he said at the "Gen-Y Gathering with the Prime Minister" programme at Alor Star Tower here yesterday.

Najib said the government was committed to effecting a paradigm shift among Gen Y through the 2050 National Transformation initiative.

He described Gen Y as the country's most precious asset.

"This is why the government is transforming the education (system)



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak riding a bicycle at the 'Kayuhan Muafakat Kedah', which is part of the 'Gen-Y Gathering with the Prime Minister' programme, in Alor Star yesterday. PIX BY AMRAN HAMID

into one that promotes analytical and critical-thinking skills.

"It is important for us to nurture our young generation to be creative and innovative," he said, adding that the country must start moving away from rote learning and examinations.

Najib reminded youths that a sudden change in the country's leadership via a revolution would disrupt stability and create chaos.

Citing an example, he said the revolutionary movement known as Arab Spring several years ago had created serious and prolonged crises in several Middle Eastern countries.

"Instead of emerging stronger,

these countries are much weaker because of prolonged civil wars and political instability."

Najib told youths not to fall for "sweet promises" as they might lead to political instability instead of creating a better country.

He said the Barisan Nasional government, on the other hand, had continued to provide stability by protecting the welfare of Malaysians through social safety nets, including the Bantuan Rakyat Malaysia, welfare aids and scholarships.

"This is why I have been stressing the importance of leadership continuity instead of pushing for sud-

den, revolutionary changes.

"We need to see who can bring change to us. We should not push aside what we have today for something that we cannot be certain with."

Najib later announced a RM30 million allocation to build a race track in Sungai Petani to nurture young motorsport talents in Kedah.

Present were his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and state executive councillors. **Additional reporting by Masriwanie Muhammad-ing**