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'2017 must be year of delivery'

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PM: Implementing Govt projects on time key to weathering uncertainties

Meeting of minds: Najib and senior officers at the monthly assembly of the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.



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PUTRAJAYA: On-time implementation and delivery of Government projects is the key to weathering global uncertainties that can affect the economy, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said that despite the World Bank forecasting the global economy to be better this year, external factors like the unpredictable global financial market, slow growth among developed economies, geo-political risks and policies of the new US administration could impact the country's growth.

The World Bank has anticipated

that the global economy will grow 3.4% this year compared to 3.15% in 2016.

"That is why we need to strengthen our national resilience to face all uncertainties brought by outside factors.

"We need to ensure programmes and aid that are meant for the people are implemented effectively for their benefit.

"We need to focus and continue working on our strengths so that the economy can continue to enjoy growth even if there are external issues impacting it," he said.

Addressing staff of the Prime Minister's Department at the monthly gathering, Najib said that apart from delivery and imple-

mentation of projects, "a nation's strength also depends on harmony among its citizens, national unity, commitment of its people and patriotism".

"These are fundamental factors that we can control. That is why I want 2017 to be the year of delivery because these are the things that can spur economic growth and also ensure the wellbeing of the people," he said.

Najib also wants civil servants to break away from being territorial and having silo mentality.

"So to ensure we reach the effectiveness and delivery that I have been talking about, we need to work together with each other as a team," he added.

While the Treasury must ensure that allocations and cash flow were enough to carry out projects and plans, agencies must also look at their procedures and processes and identify what could be further improved.

Unnecessary limitations, conditions and red tape must be removed so the Government's delivery system remains efficient, Najib said.

"We need to ensure that hard work that we put in results in good outcome.

"This is not just a reminder to all of you but also to myself. We must make right decisions and continue to be committed to deliver and serve," he concluded.