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2050 NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

# PM DISCUSSES NATION'S FUTURE WITH YOUTH LEADERS

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Najib urges youth to take ownership of TN50 initiative to ensure a better future for Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE country's transformation will be born from the vision that Malaysians share today.

Hence, it is a shared responsibility for everyone, especially the youth, to ensure that the roadmap laid out to achieve the nation's aspirations are in the right direction.

Speaking at a townhall session to move the 2050 National Transformation (TN50) ambition forward last night, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak engaged its main stakeholders to discuss core areas that would shape a progressive Malaysia.

More than 500 youth leaders gathered at Universiti Malaya's packed Dewan Tunku Canselor for the dialogue session, the first in the "TN50 Conversations" series, which Najib moderated.

Najib, in setting the tone for the dialogue, asked young Malaysians whether they could see Malaysia's economy becoming the top 20 in the world, with a RM2 trillion economy, adding that it could be done in eight years.

TN50 aspirations, he said, could be the leveraging platform for the future generation to benefit from a nation that enjoyed the following:

- A globally-recognised education system;
- High-paying careers;
- A well-preserved environment;
- A good work-life balance;
- A strong digital economy; and,
- A sound public transportation network with extensive rail connections, including the MRT and KL-Singapore High Speed Rail.

"It is fitting that we start the na-

tional discourse with our youth, as we prepare for the future," Najib said.

At the start of the dialogue, Najib shared his experiences in developing and managing the country, and the challenges that Malaysia faced in the changing global landscape.

He said preparations for the future must begin now and that TN50 would make sure of that.

Najib, who took to the stage when the session kicked off about 9pm, told the young audience that he wanted the TN50 ambition to be an initiative that the young took ownership of.

The national discourse, Najib said, was geared towards building a future together against unpredictable and radical changes in the world.

"Today, I want to hear the voice of the people, the voice of the youth."

"I want this new vision to come from the people... So that you have that sense of ownership and belonging. We can only share the vision if it comes from us all."

"A leader must be a good listener. I am a good listener and I want to hear your views and aspirations because 2050 belongs to all of you. We must shape the future together," said Najib, who was dressed casually.

He said the TN50 initiative would adopt a "bottom-up" approach.

He shared visuals on what the country could look like as Malaysia strived towards becoming a transformed nation.

"A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman thinks of the next generation."

"A leader has two roles: to provide solutions for the people's welfare and to prepare a better future for the next generation."

Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin co-moderated the session. Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and several ministers.

Najib led a group in chanting "Hidup Malaysia, sayang Malaysia" (Long live Malaysia, love Malaysia) before kick-starting the dialogue from the semicircle stage, where he



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and youth leaders giving their full support to the 2050 National Transformation ambition at Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY OSMAN ADNAN

was surrounded by youth leaders.

The first to take the floor was business development manager Akram Yusof, 25, who underlined the importance of being prepared for a digital future.

Biji-biji Initiative co-founder Rashvin Pal Singh, 29, said he hoped the country would become a carbon-neutral nation by 2050.

He proposed a minimum quota on tropical forest reserves and higher adoption of renewable energy, saying 60 per cent by 2050 would be ideal.

He also proposed a carbon tax system for fossil fuel users to encourage people to switch to clean energy.

"The money raised can be used to fund sustainability programmes."

The venue was a hive of activity even before the dialogue begun, with hundreds participating in various events organised on the sidelines, including the launch of a survey to collate views and potential themes that would set the tone in encouraging discussion of TN50.

Dialogues, which would be held throughout the year, is set to outline, by the first quarter, the themes and aspirations of TN50. The second quarter will focus on identifying priority areas and the immediate action plans for the themes established.

From June to October, the dialogues will fine-tune the action plan before the final TN50 policy document is prepared in November and December. The first and second drafts are expected to be tabled in November before the document is finalised for Najib to table in December.

The final document will include themes, aspirations, initiatives and the way forward drawn up based on feedback and input from the targeted group.

TN50, envisioned by Najib as the country's roadmap for 30 years beyond 2020, is set to be the country's

biggest policy formulation exercise to date, covering the economic, social, cultural and environmental targets Malaysia aims to achieve by 2050.

Najib said in his 41 years in politics, last night was the most nervous he had been.

Najib first announced the 30-year transformation plan during the

tabling of the 2017 Budget in Dewan Rakyat on Oct 21. He had described it as the country's "lucky charm".

Najib had said the policy would bear witness that "we are responsible citizens and forefathers who leave behind the best and greatest legacy to be inherited by the future generation".

## WHAT IS TN50?

TN50 is a long-term collective initiative to progressively shape Malaysia into the country of its citizens' aspirations

### It is collective

- Bottom-up expression of Malaysians' aspirations
- Constructive and innovative grassroots efforts
- Guided by foresight of domain experts

### It is not a 'big bang', but a progressive work

- Long-term targets, marked by interim milestones
- Wide-ranging areas for transformation from the economy, citizen wellbeing, environment, technology, social interaction to governance and public administration

### Why TN50?

- We've come a long way in the last 60 years as a nation:
- Grown and evolved economically
  - Improved quality of life and wellbeing
  - Stronger identity as Malaysians

### We have Vision 2020, but what's next? What guides us beyond 2020?

- The world has changed and is rapidly evolving
- Challenges we did not face before are pressuring us today – aging demographics, climate change, the gig economy and more
- By 2050, the world will look significantly different



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