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Civil servants open up to Najib

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Ideas flow as attendees share aspirations at TN50 dialogue

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PUTRAJAYA: Work-life balance, sustainability, flexible service, better public transportation, gender and ethnic inclusiveness, and unity – these were among 26 ideas civil servants put forward to the Prime Minister in sharing their vision on what the country and civil service will be like in 2050.

They also spoke on the importance of a strong defence system for Malaysia, equipping all clinics and hospitals with IT for health services to be more efficient, better facilities and opportunities for the physically challenged, and for more Malaysian-made products to make it in the international market through R&D by public universities.

For close to two hours, they shared their aspirations with Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in a relaxed and frank manner because, at the onset of the National Transformation 2050 (TN50) dialogue with civil servants, he encouraged them to speak up as he wanted to hear their views.

“I want to know what you, especially the young civil servants, aspire this country to be like in 30 years’ time, and how the service would have evolved, as some of you will still be around to see those changes happen.

“And I guarantee that no one will be slapped at this event,” Najib said in jest, drawing laughter from the crowd with an obvious reference to the recent TN50 dialogue held with artistes where comedian-actor Sulaiman Yassin (a.k.a. “Mat Over”) slapped filmmaker David Teo in



Greeting everyone: Najib obliging civil servants attending the TN50 dialogue with photos and wefies.

“We may not be able to change the future but we certainly can prepare to face it.”

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

front of him.

On a serious note, Najib said that with drastic changes happening fast, people must be prepared to make adjustments or be left behind.

“We may not be able to change the future but we certainly can prepare to face it. That’s why we have the TN50 sessions so that with the input, we are able to help prepare for what the future may be. If we don’t get ready from now, we will

lose out,” he told them.

Najib said one challenge was to prepare the younger generation for jobs which do not exist at present, and “not just aspire to be lawyers, engineers, doctors and architects”.

The Prime Minister said the civil servants’ input would help in charting a new vision for Malaysia.

“I hear your desire for a work-life balance and also to have maximum working hours so that you will not be too tied to your jobs (until) you neglect your family.

“The Government may also want to take into consideration that companies which practise inclusiveness in gender and ethnicity be given priority for procurements,” he said.

As the country moves forward, it is important for Malaysia to have a society that is civic-minded and practises good values where “news-papers can be sold unattended without the copies and coin box

being taken away”, Najib said.

The Prime Minister noted that many civil servants proposed that promoting unity and harmony should begin in schools, but acknowledged that the issue was sensitive and is a “political mine-field” owing to different streams.

He shared his vision of a national school with Bahasa Malaysia as the medium, with the English language empowered and Mandarin, Tamil and Arabic as strong electives.

“This will allow our young to be fluent in at least three languages and give them quality education with teachers coming from a multi-racial background. It is not something that we will implement today but this is what I envision,” he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

