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PM: Aim for 4% productivity rate The sun - 16/3/2017

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PORT KLANG: The country's productivity rate must be increased to 4% from the current 2.3% to ensure Malaysia's goal of achieving high-income nation status, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said the nation's productivity, closely associated with the skills of workers, needs to be emphasised.

"One of the things closely related to the question of workers' skills is the issue of productivity, which must be increased to 4% every year. Focus not only on employment but also productivity of every worker to meet the 4%," he said at a programme called "Skilled Workers are the Heartbeat of National Transformation 2050" at WIT College here yesterday.

Also present was WIT College board chairman, Tan Sri

Zainal Rampak.

Bernama also reported Najib as saying that one of the criteria needed to achieve developed nation status and an advanced economy was that people should have high income, and this depended directly on the level of skills and education of the individual.

Najib noted that only 28% of Malaysians are in the highly skilled category and the government wanted to increase

the figure to 35% by 2020.

Earlier at another event, Najib launched the New Generation Patrol Craft (NGPC) vessel for the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) at the Destini Marine shipyard here.

The *KM Bagan Datuk*, the first of a fleet of six vessels, was constructed by Destini Marine Sdn Bhd for MMEA.

"The maritime sector is facing various challenges, especially in the 21st century. I hope this new vessel will fulfil MMEA's requirements, especially in facing challenges that are more diverse and complex."

Also present at the event were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, MMEA director-general Adm Datuk Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar and Destini Berhad chairman Tan Sri Rodzali Daud.

Najib said the Straits of Malacca and Singapore Strait are among the busiest waterways in the world, with 83,740 ships having entered the area last year.

"With a sea area of 614,158km and taking into account the nation's strategic geographic location, it is important to ensure the safety, integrity and sovereignty are intact," said Najib.



ASYRAF RASID/
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A naval officer walks past the New Generation Patrol Craft that was launched for the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency at the Destini Marine shipyard in Port Klang yesterday.