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'NTP created 1.8m jobs'

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> All Malaysians able to contribute and share country's wealth, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Transformation Programme (NTP) created 1.8 million jobs between 2010 and 2016, of which over one million were high-income jobs, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said through NTP, the Gross National Income increased by nearly 50% and Malaysia has almost eradicated poverty, reducing it to just 0.6%.

"We have kept inflation and unemployment low, and have been acclaimed by global institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) for the reforms

we have undertaken.

"We are firmly on the path to become a high-income nation. In short, we have an economic plan. That plan is working, we have delivered, and we will continue to deliver," Najib said during his keynote address at the 2017 Global Transformation Forum at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.

Najib said no Malaysian will be left behind under the NTP, where the needs of all are met, and all communities are able to contribute to and share in the wealth of the country, Bernama reported.

To help those struggling with

the rising costs of living, and to stimulate economic activity in the consumer market, the Malaysia People's Aid was introduced in 2012 and provided targeted relief to 7.28 million households earning less than RM3,000 a month in 2016.

The government has also planned 1.1 million affordable and low-cost houses for middle and low-income households, including housing for civil servants and new-generation Felda settlers, of which 21% has been completed and another 22% is under construction.

On another matter, Najib said criticising the country is akin to economic sabotage and it is not opposition politicians who will suffer but ordinary Malaysians.

He said the US\$7 billion (RM30.98 billion) Aramco-Petronas deal was almost lost due to inaccurate news spread by irresponsible parties.

He added that the government's opponents often prefer not to engage the government on facts but instead create false propaganda, some of which unfortunately gains traction internationally.

"The truth is the very opposite. Millions of jobs have been created and there has been strong and consistent growth."

Najib said countless measures have been put in place to ensure the nation's continued transformation into an innovative, knowledge-based economy, with sustainability and inclusivity at its core.