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PM: Govt to focus on economic agenda

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We will not be distracted in the course of serving the rakyat, says Najib

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PETALING JAYA: The Government will remain committed and focused in accelerating the nation's economic agenda for the benefit of the rakyat.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said there were those who accused Malaysia of being a failed state, but did not make similar accusations in the 1990s when the nation's reserves were lower than they are today.

"What is important is that the Government does not waste time entertaining 'road diversions'.

"It is also crucial that the Govern-

ment must be above politics and orient itself towards serving the interests of the rakyat," he said in his National Day message.

In this respect, he said there was no better gift for the rakyat than having a Government that had the ability to deliver its promises.

Najib cited several examples to prove that the nation was on the right track.

Among these were 5.8% GDP growth, Forbes placing Malaysia as having the highest foreign investments in the region, Fitch Ratings maintaining Malaysia's credit rating at a stable score of A- and Bank Negara's international reserves increasing to RM431bil.

"The facts and figures are not plucked out of thin air or mere rhetoric, but authenticated and verified by recognised and competent accreditation bodies," he said.

He added that the Government would continue with infrastructure projects that benefit the rakyat while providing allocation for initiatives under the 1Malaysia brand.

Najib called on all Malaysians to celebrate unity in line with this year's theme *Negaraku, Sehati Sejiwa* ("My Country, One Heart One Soul").

"This joy must spill over to the entire peninsula as well as to Sabah and Sarawak. In the soul and spirit of independence, this is not the time

for us to be disunited," he said.

He said the rakyat should strive forward in line with the aspirations of the National Transformation 2050 (TN50) philosophy to become a nation par excellence.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the rakyat's patriotism and love for the country was evident whenever Malaysian athletes won medals at the 29th SEA Games.

"Victories saw the national flag raised and the national anthem reverberate.

"Malaysians enthusiastically gave their total support to our national teams," he said in a video message released in conjunction with

National Day 2017.

Dr Ahmad Zahid viewed this joy and pride as a translation of love for the country, irrespective of race.

"This is the true value of Malaysian unity. We have to maintain this spirit for the sake of the country," he said.

The five-minute video clip also included excerpts of an interview with Father of Independence Tunku Abdul Rahman and a montage featuring prominent Malaysians such as astrophysicist Prof Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman, national astronaut Datuk Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, biotechnologist Dr Mahaletchumy Arujanan, singer Yuna and actress Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh.