

PM: Our goal is no dream
TheStarOnline
April 21, 2012

KOTA KINABALU: The goal of becoming a high-income nation is not a dream but a realistic target based on years of prudent management of the country, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The Prime Minister said there was already a trend that the average income of Malaysians was growing at a fast pace.

"In 2009, our per capita income was US\$6,700 (RM20,533) and this jumped to US\$9,700 (RM29,727) last year, he said when launching the Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia (Malaysian Unit Trust Week) here yesterday.

Najib said the success attained by the nation so far was due to the right policies drawn up by successive governments since Independence.

"At every election, we (the Barisan Nasional) have been given a strong mandate to form the government and this in turn has contributed to political stability.

"Our development programmes have been so thorough that they have transformed our country's socio-economic landscape.

"We, in Malaysia, also have an excellent track record in managing our complex and diverse society," he said.

Najib also said the Government had a good track record in developing the country, giving the example of Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) that was one of the most successful Malaysian financial institutions.

He said the MSAM event the largest ever in Sabah was aimed at educating Malaysians on investments and savings.

The Prime Minister said PNB, with a number of blue chip companies under its wings, could spur more economic activities in Sabah, which was seeing fast development, including in renewable energy and seaweed cultivation.

Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman said in his speech that 1.09 million Sabahans bought a total of 12 billion units of various unit trusts under PNB.

Later at a 1Malaysia gathering in the east coast Sandakan district Najib said he wanted every citizen to be a part of the Malaysian train of success.

Najib likened the country's positive progress to that of a train fast picking up momentum and destined for greater glory, only if the people made the right choice.

"The train has left the station. It is gaining strength as we go along so don't just be mere bystanders.

"I want to bring everyone onboard including people in Sabah," he said during a dinner with the Sandakan and Batu Sapi parliamentary constituents.

Najib said a host of development plans are in place for Sandakan and Batu Sapi such as the Sibuga trunk road RM20.5mil upgrading project, RM63.5mil housing project in Kg Lupak Meluas and RM195mil Batu Sapi-Karamunting bypass.

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