

**Government Transformation Agenda Has To Be Founded On People's Strong Mandate - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the government's transformation agenda for Malaysia has to be predicated on a strong mandate from the people in the next general election.

The prime minister said that without a strong mandate, the government's plans for the country may be derailed.

"We have this clarity of wisdom, we have a very comprehensive, credible, cohesive, realistic programme and roadmap to get us to become a fully developed high-income nation.

"But all that we have in mind for the country, for the people of Malaysia, has to be predicated on a strong mandate from the people. Because with a strong mandate, you can then proceed with your transformational agenda," he said in reply to a question during a dialogue session at the 8th installment of Invest Malaysia 2012 (IMKL 2012), here.

The general election-linked question, posted by PricewaterhouseCoopers Malaysia (PwC) executive chairman Datuk Johan Raslan, the moderator of the session, was one of the nine questions submitted to the prime minister at the session.

Najib reiterated government's strong commitment towards achieving Vision 2020, and said it would not choose a 'populist approach', which is often associated with the opposition pact, merely to draw support from the people.

Instead, the prime minister said, as a responsible government it will offer to the Malaysian public a very credible plan for the future of the 'rakyat' (people).

Describing the promises made by the opposition as far-fetched and something that could not be implemented, Najib said he had a 'very serious doubt' about the plan offered.

"We are already spending more than RM2 billion a month on petrol subsidy and can you imagine pushing it up RM2 billion to RM4 billion? What will it do to the national finances?

"Then, abolishing the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) loans amounting to RM35 billion, abolishing toll, increasing the minimum wage to RM4,000 per month. It does not take an economist to understand that those promises are so far-fetched. They cannot be implemented, nor have they any intention of implementing them except getting into office," he said.

Replying to another question, Najib said it was hard to think of a single strong branding for Malaysia as it had "a bit of everything".

"If you talk in terms of package, in terms of the diversity we have in Malaysia - ethnically, culturally, and in terms of the way of life, you have the more conservative elements, more liberal and the more cosmopolitan part of Malaysia.

"So, thinking as a whole, that's probably the best package you could possibly get anywhere in the world. I have been around the world and I still believe that Malaysia is a great place

to live in and do business," he said, admitting that there were some shortcomings.

However, Najib said, the government hoped to do more to make the country an even better place.

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