

**Malaysia's Transformation Hinges On Determination Of People To Change –
Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- The success of Malaysia's transformation programmes hinges on the willingness and determination of all Malaysians to change and transform, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today.

To achieve such a success, Muhyiddin outlined the following eight areas which needed to be addressed.

They were to re-energise the private sector; develop a quality workforce; build a competitive domestic economy; strengthen the public sector; create a transparent and market friendly affirmative action; develop a knowledge base infrastructure; enhance the sources of growth; and ensure sustainability growth.

"For this purpose, Malaysia has crafted and introduced the Government Transformation Programme and the Economic Transformation Programme after a thorough and realistic assessment of Malaysia's current economic situation and its future prospect," he said in his keynote address at the launching of the World Innovation Forum-Kuala Lumpur 2012 (WIF-KL2012) at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here today.

The three-day forum themed 'Inclusive Innovation For Transformation', which was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Malaysian Foundation for Innovation (YIM), is the part of two government initiatives -- the Year of creativity and Innovation Malaysia (Malaysia Innovative 2010) and the Year of Science and Mathematics Excellence 2011.

Also present were Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili and his deputy Datuk Fadillah Yusof.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said that although change could not happen overnight, steps towards it must begin now.

He added that efforts put in by MOSTI, YIM and its strategic partners in organising this forum, is part of the follow-up and follow-through from the initiative introduced by the government to inculcate a culture of innovation and creativity the Malaysian society.

The Deputy Prime Minister also said that science, technology and innovation have always held a pivotal role in economic and social development.

"Major challenges facing the world today, including economic crises, environmental degradation and social issues require new and innovative solutions.

"Therefore, a collective vision, concerted efforts to continuously promote the right mindset and attitude, and effective execution of development policies and strategies are major pre-requisites to building a conducive environment for innovation to flourish," he said.

Elaborating further, Muhyiddin called on all parties, namely from the government, private sector, entrepreneurs, academia and civil society to work together in finding solutions to

existing and perennial, socio-economic problems that would ultimately benefit the people.

"All of us have an important role to assume because innovation must be sustainable, inclusive and pervasive. Innovation should be by all and for the benefit for all.

"We should continue to co-create and strengthen ecosystems that promote inclusive innovation which improves the lives of everyone, by producing innovative, low cost but high quality products or services that add value to customers, businesses, environment and people in general," he said.

In tandem with the concept of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now, Muhyiddin said that Malaysia was placing sustainable and inclusive innovation at the very core of its mid and long-term development strategies.

He noted that inclusive innovation has now been included in the Master Plan of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which focuses on creating an enabling ecosystem to accelerate the growth of SMEs through productivity gains and innovation.

"Science, technology and innovation has long been placed at the centre of Malaysia's development agenda, and the period between 2010 and 2020, can be regarded as the Decade of Innovation for Malaysia.

"I hope that the 2010-2020 Innovation Decade will help ignite and inspire Malaysians from all walks of life to enculturate and embrace science, technology and innovation towards a creative and innovative nation," he said.

Muhyiddin also launched a special youth programme called iCATs (Innovation Catalysts) to inspire more Malaysian youths to become agents of strategy.

About, 1,800 representatives from 50 countries are participating in the forum which will discuss and generate ideas on innovation as the key to economic progress, especially among developing countries.

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