

**Malaysia Leads Way In Region Supporting Clean Lighting, Says Najib  
Bernama  
November 07, 2012**

GEORGE TOWN, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is leading the way in the region in supporting clean lighting, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Wednesday.

He cited a United Nations' report that Malaysia was the only one of the 10 Asean states and one of a handful in Asia which have made advanced progress in supporting clean lighting.

"We have already banned the most wasteful bulbs. Over the next two years, we will gradually phase out the remaining incandescent bulbs, helping Malaysian consumers to make a greener choice," he said at the opening of Philips Lumileds' second high power light emitting diode (LED) production facility in Bayan Lepas here today.

The text of his speech was read out by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

Najib said Malaysia had introduced fiscal incentives for companies producing energy efficient lighting products in the country and tax incentives for companies that buy them.

"Philips Lumileds expansion was identified as one of the key projects in the government's economic transformation programme. It reflects our commitment to ensure Malaysia's strong economic growth was genuinely sustainable as we aim to reduce our carbon emissions by 40 per cent by the end of this decade.

"And its completion today is a vote of confidence, not just in our plan to turn Malaysia into a thriving developed economy by 2020, but also in the calibre of our workforce," he said.

The prime minister said Philips was a truly valuable business partner to Malaysia and its investment in Penang would bring Malaysia closer to becoming a globally competitive investment destination.

"It will also bring real benefits for the people who work here, using training and development to build and sustain a highly skilled workforce," he said.

Najib said that choosing clean lighting was one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to slow climate change.

Alluding to the UN's Report, he said, lighting was responsible for six per cent of the world's carbon emissions and demand for artificial light was set to grow by 60 per cent over the next two decades.

"If developing and middle-income countries switched to clean lighting, they would save 490 mega tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent to closing 250 coal-fired power stations or taking 120 million cars off the road.

"They would also save US\$110 billion," Najib added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=707791>

