

**Malaysia's economic transformation starts with Najib, Idris Jala says**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**November 27, 2012**  
**By Ida Lim**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 27 — The transformation of Malaysia's economy begins with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, PEMANDU chief executive officer Datuk Seri Idris Jala said today.

"At the end of the day, how an economy progresses begins with our Number One leader.

"If the Number One leader in the country does not wake up and say 'I want to transform Malaysia', then susahlah (it's difficult)," Idris said during question time at the Economic Transformation Programme's (ETP) "Second Year in Action" event today.

A Twitter user had commented that the government's ETP was only successful because of Idris and had asked what would happen if he should leave.

In giving credit to Najib (picture), Idris reminded the crowd that the PM was the one who had brought him to head Putrajaya's transformation initiatives.

"The critical component for Malaysia begins with Najib. Same thing with the US, it begins with Obama."

Once leaders have decided to carry out transformation, they can hire people like him and the PEMANDU team to help, added Idris.

He said there are many talented people in Malaysia's 28 million-strong population, including civil servants who make up half of the PEMANDU staff.

The minister in the prime minister's department said that the ETP must "go beyond" one or two players and "must be institutionalised."

"The institutionalised way of working is the one thing that will provide continuity...it will be extending beyond personalities," Idris said.

He offered a glimpse into how the transformation was carried out through institutions, saying that steering committees and problem-solving committees have been set up.

The monthly problem-solving committees are chaired by ministers, such as Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, based on the different National Key Result Areas (NKRAs).

"It begins with the Number One man, the PM, that's the key component," he said in conclusion.

Hakcipta © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/malaysias-economic-transformation-starts-with-najib-idris-jala-says/>