

Najib: Rise to the challenge
The Star Online
15 November, 2012
By FLORENCE A. SAMY

KUALA LUMPUR: The message is as simple as it is challenging stop whining and start thinking of solutions.

Instead of merely complaining, Malaysians, especially the younger generation, have been urged to brainstorm and present their ideas to a newly launched website www.challenge.my.

The Genovasi Challenge platform driven by Agensi Inovasi Malaysia and targeting youths is to give power to the people to come up with creative ideas to resolve problems.

The first challenge, *Connected Communities*, seeks ideas on how to develop and enliven your neighbourhood and quality of life. Attractive prizes are being offered, including RM100,000 for the best idea.

Launching the website yesterday, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the top 10 ideas would receive prizes, some of which would also get funding for the plans to be developed further.

"We will support good ideas; these will see the light of the day," the Prime Minister said after an informal brainstorming session with a group comprising mostly youths.

Najib stressed on the importance of engaging with the younger generation to propel the country to greater heights.

"I believe in young people. I believe in their passion and energy. They have great ideas that can propel the nation forward.

"It is all about nation building. We must build this nation of Malaysia together, irrespective of what political beliefs you have.

"At the end of the day, Malaysia is the country we were born in, live in and eventually will be buried in.

"This is our country and we must make Malaysia second to none," he said. "And, I believe we can do it."

Generating ideas, he added, was an important part of the nation-building process.

"We want to build this nation. As Prime Minister, I want to listen to you.

"I am passionate about transforming this country because I have a lot of hope for Malaysia and those hopes can be translated into reality."

Najib interacted with the crowd and was impressed with the ideas that were put forward.

"There are some great ideas that are being discussed, ideas that can actually be implemented. These are not fanciful ideas but real ideas that can be translated into action," he said.

The Genovasi Challenge is part of the overall Genovasi initiative which Najib launched in August.

AIM chief executive officer Mark Rozario said the Genovasi Challenge was open to Malaysians aged 14 and above, including those living abroad.

He said submissions for the *Connected Communities* challenge was open from now until Dec 15.

The ideas would be judged by a panel of experts who would shortlist about 15. The public would then vote online for the best submission before the winner is announced.

Special Innovation Unit CEO Datuk Seri Dr Kamal Jit Singh said the Genovasi Challenge platform was to encourage Malaysians to "assume responsibility and take action instead of just complaining", adding that more challenges were in store.

Copyright © 1995-2012 Star Publications (M) Bhd

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/11/15/nation/12323351&sec=nation>