

PM: Help realise 2020 goal
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CHALLENGING PHASE: Support of all Malaysians vital in final leg of race to become developed nation with high income, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: MALAYSIA has improved by leaps and bounds since achieving its independence 55 years ago and is on its final course to become a developed nation with high income, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

"This final phase is the most challenging. We have come this far because we have wise leadership, backed by a solid civil service.

"Our direction and how to get there are clearly set. Now, every Malaysian has to work hard to make our vision come true," said Najib when launching the Malaysiaku Expo at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

"Malaysia has a clear strategy and direction to go through the challenge that will elevate the country to the desired position. "We know how to get there, but we need to work hard. Think creatively in order to get there."

The three-day expo which started yesterday showcased exhibitions, game shows and theatre performances featuring local elements, depicting the country's history and heritage.

Najib said all Malaysians should help realise the goal.

"We are not a country that rests on its laurels. This final leg of our race needs the support of all Malaysians. For that, we will need the support and the mandate when the time comes."

He added that the country's journey had been remarkable, from a poverty-ridden nation to a success story. Najib, who is also finance minister, said many hurdles had to be crossed before the country achieved its successes.

"Gone were the days when the per capita income was merely RM700 in the 1950s. It stood at about RM30,000 last year.

"Now, we have all kinds of transformation programmes like the Government Transformation Programme and Economic Transformation Programme."

Malaysia, he added had achieved global recognition as one of the leaders in the oil and gas industry, real estate and construction and Islamic banking.

"We are also the third largest IPO (Initial Public Offering) hub in the world and the world's biggest glove manufacturer."

He cited Malaysia's 25th and 18th rankings in the Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013 by the World Economic Forum and the World Bank's Doing Business 2012 Report respectively.

"Now, Malaysians can register their businesses as well as get their passports and MyKad done within an hour. We have also set up two Urban Transformation Centres that house more than 30 government agencies under one roof to cater to the public from 8.30am to 10pm seven days a week without fail. We are also serious about lowering crime and pollution levels."

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