

Umno-BN-led Government Will Disburse Nation's Economic Pie Fairly And Justly, Says Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- The Umno and Barisan Nasional-led government has always protected the interests of the Malays and has never taken away or denied their sovereign rights especially in disbursing the nation's economic pie, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said the government was conscientiously working to expand the economy so that the nation's wealth and prosperity can be disbursed fairly and justly to multiracial Malaysians.

The Economic Transformation Programme and the Entry Point Projects (EPPs) that have been implemented so far have yielded positive results as evident from the country receiving high rate of investments and the nation is poised to enjoy more than five per cent economic growth, said Najib, who is also Finance Minister.

"With this positive results, we can do the redistribution without denying the rights of the non-Malays and non-Bumiputeras, what more taking away what they already have.

"We can disburse the fruit of economic growth to the Malays and the Bumiputeras. This is what the government is doing in terms of micro and because of this the non-Malays and Bumiputeras understand the government's approach and hence, they are not angry and they did not oppose the policy to help the Malays and Bumiputeras.

"They (non-Malays) understand that the country's long-term stability rests on Malaysians and that the nation's wealth must be distributed fairly and justly," said Najib, who is also Umno president and BN chairman, at the presentation of the memoranda of support to the prime minister by Malay and Bumiputera Economic Bodies.

The event arranged by the Federation of Malay Economic Bodies (GABEM) was attended by its chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Ramlan Othman.

Najib said Umno, the linchpin of the governing Barisan Nasional, would continue efforts to help the Malays and the Bumiputeras on merit in the economic and business sectors.

"We will offer opportunities to enterprising Malays and Bumiputeras so that there will be healthy competition and they can do business sustainably.

"It's meaningless to give opportunities but after a few years their business fail. Businesses of so many Malays and Bumiputeras fell flat during the financial crisis in 1997 due to absence of sustainability and lack of competitive edge," he said.

Najib said he was grateful that the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU) under the Bumiputera Agenda Action Council had resulted in the Malay and Bumiputeras' equity ownership to increase to 23.09 per cent in 2010 from 21.9 per cent in 2008.

"The government has made efforts to boost the position of the Malays and Bumiputeras in the economic sector since the launch of the New Economic Policy in 1969 and that "blessed" year marked the start of the changes to the country's policies.

"The country's leadership announced the New Economic Policy. The affirmative actions implemented then provided a slight advantage to the Malays and the Bumiputeras.

"At that time, the policy was not regarded as discriminative by the other races. Today, part of the world sees new policies or new ideas as affirmative actions and are labelled as discriminatory policies and hence, are unacceptable.

"As the government, we understand the world has changed and that is why efforts to help the Malays and the Bumiputeras need to be done wisely and accurately," he said.

Najib also chided the attitude of the Malays and the Bumiputeras who want to become "rent-seekers" to the extent that the 30 per cent equity ownership for the Malays and the Bumiputeras has not been achieved until today.

"If possible, we want to reduce rent-seekers. There are many who hand out letters asking for assistance. We are not sure whether they are an efficient lot or otherwise.

"If we promote rent-seekers, when the strength or the position of the Malays in the economic sector will increase and until when we want to continue this policy?

"This approach is not right. If from the beginning we have not been giving to rent-seekers, today the 30 per cent equity ownership would have been achieved," he added.

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