

**Most Of Objectives Of Government Transformation Plans Achieved - Najib
Bernama
March 19, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced that most of the objectives of the government's transformation plans were achieved which led to an improvement in the people's living standard, the economy growing well and the financial position of the country to be very strong.

The Prime Minister said the planning and execution of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) and Government Transformation Programme (GTP) not only proved the determination of the government to steer the country based on the "1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now" concept, but were also the boldest experiments ever undertaken by any government in the world in practising the principles of transparency and accountability.

"GTP, ETP, NKRA (National Key Result Areas), NKEAs (National Key Economic Areas) and EPPs (Entry Point Projects), were all formulated to improve the lives of all Malaysians in a structured manner.

"Furthermore, all these initiatives, none other than, are steps by the government to enable each and every Malaysian to gain access to the best that life can offer.

"Jobs with commensurate remuneration, the higher the skills and expertise one possesses, the higher the remuneration," he said in his speech in conjunction with the launching the National Transformation Programme's 2012 Annual Report at Auditorium Perdana, Angkasapuri, here Tuesday night.

The speech was broadcast live by Radio-Television Malaysia (RTM).

He said as a result of thorough and rigorous planning and execution of effective development policies, Malaysia had been transformed from a low-income agricultural nation to a modern industrial economy with moderately high income.

"We are very grateful that Malaysia today is a manifestation of a successful country," he said.

He said Malaysia had clearly proven and was an example of a country that was very progressive.

"Since independence, and in the early decades, the government had made eradicating poverty, land reform, social justice, improving access to each level of education, health services for all and wealth generation as a national agenda," he said.

He said three years after the government started the GTP, seven NKRA, among them the NKRA on Addressing the Rising Cost of Living, had succeeded in bringing relief to the people in the lower income bracket.

"As proof of the concern for the problems of the people in shouldering the rising cost of living, the government allocated RM37.8 billion to finance various provisions, RM22.3 billion in subsidies, RM873.5 million for incentives and RM14.6 billion for aid," he said.

He said the amount included the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) which was extended and expanded to include singles, RM100 schooling aid (1Malaysia School Vouchers) for primary

and secondary students and RM250 1Malaysia Book Vouchers for students of higher learning institutions.

He said in addition, the opening of 85 1Malaysia People's shops enabled the people to have an alternative to get their daily requirements at an average cost of 20 to 40 per cent lower than the market price, and 168 1Malaysia clinics that catered to more than six million people at a cost of only RM1 (per patient).

"We are also implementing initiatives like the 1Malaysia Book Stores, 1Malaysia Textile Stores, 1Malaysia Housing Project (PR1MA), 1Malaysia Tyre Aid (TR1MA), 1Malaysia People's Welfare Assistance (KAR1SMA) and 1Malaysia People's Menu," he said.

He said under the Raising of Living Standards of Low-Income Households NKRA, the government succeeded in reducing the poverty rate to 1.7 per cent and that efforts to improve the living standard of people in the low income group would not only be continued, but expanded.

Najib said under the e-Kasih programme, 89 per cent or more than 100,000 people who registered with it were successfully brought out of poverty in just three years.

"In order to ensure that low-income households have access to housing, various initiatives have and are being implemented by government agencies including the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Syarikat Perumahan Negara. Under this effort, the government has offered more than 100,000 units of affordable houses," he said.

He said under NKRA on Improving Rural Basic Infrastructure, more than 3,300 kilometres of roads had been built, more than 1.4 million households gained access to clean water supply while 470,000 households had access to uninterrupted electricity supply.

"Indeed, all the initiatives under this NKRA benefited nearly four million Malaysians living in rural areas," he said.

Under the Improving Student Outcomes NKRA, he said total pre-school enrolment increased to nearly 770,000 last year, or 80 per cent of the age cohort compared with 67 per cent in 2009. Najib said under the Improving Urban Public Transport NKRA, the government was actively improving urban public transport through ongoing construction projects, in particular the extension of the existing LRT line and coming onstream of the MRT project.

"The government hopes the people will be patient regarding the traffic congestion and inconveniences they have to face because of these projects . This is a temporary phenomenon. God willing, when all the projects are completed, Malaysians in future will enjoy efficient public transport and among the best in the region," he said. He said that in future, people could expect a high-speed rail system which connects Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in just 90 minutes, aligning of the second phase of the MRT track, double-tracking electric railway from Ipoh to Padang Besar, and construction of the West Coast Highway, all of which would ultimately improve the quality of urban public transport and thus the people's lifestyle.

On the NKRA Against Corruption, he said Malaysia was the only country that made the fight against corruption a Key Performance Indicator or country KPI.

"This NKRA demonstrated its effectiveness when Malaysia's position in the Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International improved six places to 54th position in 2012

and was ranked third among ASEAN countries," he said.

To ensure that the people live in peace and prosperity, he said the government had implemented initiatives to prevent crime and that the crime rate was reduced by up to 27 per cent in three years.

He said the government will ensure that the Royal Malaysia Police's capability was improved and structured according to the needs of modern crime fighting.

"Achieving a high-income developed country status is our goal. What is important, we want to become a high-income developed country in our own mould, in which the happiness of individuals, families and communities is the primary basis, not purely economic indices.

"Because of that, the National Transformation Policy was formulated and implemented to ensure that each and every Malaysian will enjoy its benefits," he said.

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