

Najib Walks The Talk

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KUALA LUMPUR, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's aggressive efforts to transform Malaysia into a developed nation by 2020, is reflective of a leader who walks the talk.

Prof Datuk Dr Zainal Keling, holder of the Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba chair at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, said Najib walked the talk with his success in wresting back the support of the people after the political tsunami in 2008.

"Najib dares to take aggressive steps to enable the people to enjoy a democratic system which is open and better. He wisely implemented political transformation from the outset of his rule because he could sniff the winds of change taking place in the national political landscape.

"Abolishing the Internal Security Act, and amending the Universities and University Colleges Act (AUKU) and the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 are proof of his openness to create a level-playing field in politics," he told Bernama in conjunction with Najib's four years as prime minister.

Najib was sworn in as Malaysia's sixth prime minister on April 3, 2009.

Furthermore, Zainal said, politically, Najib had been able to formulate Malaysia's foreign policy in a short time which could preserve security, economic and political interests.

"The firming of the economy, especially in light of the uncertain world economy, is a draw factor for the world to continue forming ties with Malaysia.

"The concept of moderation too, places Malaysia as a pioneer in setting up a moderate Islamic nation, rejecting violence and subsequently, showing a Malaysian image as a peaceful nation," he said.

Zainal said, Najib's success in concluding a peace treaty between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), to pave the way towards solving 40 years of conflict, and his humanitarian visit to Gaza were among proof his leadership was recognised and needed by the international society.

Meanwhile, Universiti Sains Malaysia Social Science Studies Centre senior lecturer, Assoc. Prof Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said, Najib had shown his authority in his administration, in fact, deeply understanding the feelings of the people which was the pillar of a great leader.

In fact, Najib always fulfilled his promises, he said, adding that the prime minister had been successful in transforming the administration of the nation and giving priority to the people.

Pandian said, this could be seen with the 1Malaysia concept which was the basis to all Najib's efforts to spur the nation, unite the people of a myriad backgrounds and idea to make the concept not mere theory but also transforming it into a programme of looking after the people.

"This is indeed, an astounding achievement," he said, noting: "Many leaders of the world have theories, principles or mottos, but not many like Najib, who turned the 1Malaysia

Concept into a reality."

He said, programmes like 1Malaysia People's Aid and 1Malaysia Shops were a result of the acute understanding of the prime minister on the people's needs.

He said, Najib's excellent efforts could be seen with the tabling of the Government Transformation Programme and Economic Transformation Programme reports; in fact, the reports also proved that Malaysia was poised to be spurred to a greater era in Najib's future administrative term.

Traders and Entrepreneurs Association of Malaysia (PERDASAMA) president Datuk Moehammad Izat Emir said, Najib had introduced a very significant policy which gave confidence to foreign investors and escalated economic activities in the country.

"The national economy is at a very good level whereby, the property development sector is very encouraging with a good market and the construction of numerous affordable homes for the medium and low income groups," he said.

He said, numerous initiatives and aid which were inspired by Najib such as BR1M and 1Malaysia Shops which not only eased the financial burden of the people, but also generated the local economy with a fair distribution of the national economy products.

Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (FOMCA) president Datuk N. Marimuthu said, direct initiative to consumers such as the 1Malaysia Book Voucher and 1Malaysia People's Shop gave better choice to the people to obtain essential items at a cheap rate.

"The effect of the initiatives is not small; other than helping to lighten the burden of the people, it also created a competition to producers to turn out cheaper goods of higher quality.

"Furthermore, the initiatives created competition among sundry shops in the area to provide better service and cheaper goods to local residents. In conclusion, all these impacts benefitted the people," said Marimuthu.

For Malaysian Youth Council president Mohamed Maliki Mohamed Rapiee, numerous opportunities to glean knowledge and skills, other than opportunities to boost income, could be obtained by youths under Najib's administration.

"Programmes like My First Home Scheme and 1Malaysia Housing gave an opportunity to youth to own homes, which was something that they had never thought of previously, to own a property at a young age...unless one had worked for more than 10 years, do not dream of owning a house.

"We have yet to talk about infrastructural projects for the people which touched billions of ringgit such as the Mass Rapid Transit which will facilitate the people in the future, especially youths," he said.

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