

Low Unemployment Shows Govt Capable Of Managing Country's Economy - Najib Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- The country's low unemployment rate of 3.1 per cent proves that the government is capable of managing the national economy well, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the country's low unemployment rate also enabled Malaysia to achieve almost full employment.

Malaysia also led other developed nations such as Spain, which had an unemployment rate of 26.5 per cent, Italy (11.6 per cent), the United States (7.7 per cent), Australia (5.5 per cent) and Japan (4.2 per cent), he said at the launching of the Workers' Day 2013 gathering at the Stadium Putra Bukit Jalil, here Saturday.

More than 12,000 workers representing the various trade unions, employers associations, government departments and agencies as well as the private sector also attended the gathering.

Najib said: "There are nations recording higher growth but are unable to provide job opportunities to their nationals. However, we succeeded in expanding the economy with a low unemployment rate of 3.1 per cent, and almost achieving full employment."

In addition, efforts to raise the number of skilled manpower and giving priority to their welfare were two important aspects in the endeavour to achieve the national transformation agenda, said Najib.

The Prime Minister said the government was also preparing policies and programmes in the public and private sectors that could raise the workers' skills, competency and knowledge.

To date, only 28 per cent of the workers in Malaysia could be categorised as skilled workers, and the government was targeting that by 2020, the figure should reach the target of 50 per cent, he added.

Najib said that for this purpose, workers in the country should endeavour to be categorised as skilled workers, not unskilled or half-skilled workers.

He said employers must give emphasis on the welfare of the workers to ensure that these workers, whether in the public or private sector, could continue to be appreciated for their dedication and productivity.

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