

**Tourism Industry Shows Remarkable Growth - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the country's tourism industry showed a remarkable growth as the sector contributed over RM47 billion to the Gross National Income (GNI) last year.

The prime minister said the achievement had become a key pillar for the country to achieve its goal of becoming a high-income nation by 2020.

"Malaysia has seen remarkable growth in its tourism industry," he said in his Facebook site which also attached a link to an article published by a local newspaper with the heading, 'Giving the tourism sector a boost'.

A news report stated that the second largest foreign exchange earner after manufactured goods and the seventh largest contributor to the Malaysian economy, the tourism industry raked in a GNI of RM47.2 billion last year.

The industry experienced a remarkable growth and evolved to become one of the country's fastest growing economic sectors, contributing RM60.6 billion in tourist receipts, with tourist arrivals registering at 25.03 million in 2012.

Meanwhile, on his Twitter account, the prime minister wished all the best to two photographers who were representing Malaysia at the World Press Photo (WPP) 2013 Exhibition.

Two Malaysian freelance photographers have marked Malaysia's milestone entry into the WPP 2013 Exhibition, together with 52 other photographers from around the world.

The prize winning photographs selected for the exhibition were a colourful bull-racing photo entitled 'Joy at the End of the Run' by Dr Chen Wei Seng that was taken in Sumatra, Indonesia, under the Sports Action category, and Stefen Chow's photograph titled 'A Chinese Contemporary Artist Ai WeiWei' under the Staged Potrait category.

The WPP 2013, the world's largest and most prestigious annual press photography contest exhibition, is being hosted by TNT Malaysia Express along with the embassies of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands in the capital, and feature stunning photographs taken by members of the press worldwide.

The exhibition is open to the public starting Wednesday at the Bangsar Shopping Centre.

In SHAH ALAM, Selangor, Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz was certain that the government would not bring back the Emergency Ordinance (EO) although recent rampant shooting incidents could affect the tourism industry.

"In a way, it will certainly, affect our tourism, no doubt about it, but to bring back the EO is out of the question, as far as I am concerned.

"Instead of bringing back the EO, the problem could be tackled through modern policing, gathering of evidence, strengthening the police Special Branch, and putting more police

personnel on the streets," he said.

Mohamed Nazri said this when asked to comment on the impact of recent rampant shootings to the country's image and its tourism industry.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Red Carpet, Malaysia first all-stars interactive wax museum, at i-City in Section 7.

On tourist arrivals, the minister said in the first six months of this year, Malaysia had received 12.55 million tourists, as compared to 11.6 million tourist arrivals during the same period last year.

For this year, the ministry targeted 26.8 million tourist arrivals, with a revenue of about RM65 billion, said Mohamed Nazri.

He said the ministry would lend its assistance to the Red Carpet wax museum in i-City, especially in local and international tourism promotion.

He said the Red Carpet had its local attraction, especially with the inclusion of Malaysia's very own icons like the Father of Independence Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Malaysia Bond's Girl Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh and world-class shoemaker Datuk Jimmy Choo.

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