

**Good Economic Reforms Will Retain Investors' Confidence, Says Ramon
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 (Bernama) -- Good economic reforms will retain investors' confidence in the Malaysian economy and any negative elements must be contained in order to provide a conducive environment for investment, said Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI).

Its Chairman of the Centre for Public Policy Studies, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, said tough actions were needed to curtail acts of extremism or otherwise investments would be affected.

He said although good reforms would definitely boost investors' confidence the government was bogged down with dealing with rising extremism either religion or race.

"We must try to control and manage them better. I appeal to the Prime Minister to overcome these problems," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the National Economic Summit and Dialogue here Friday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak delivered a keynote address at the half-day summit, themed "Moving the Malaysian Economy Forward: Getting to the Heart of the Matter", here.

In his keynote address, Najib said Malaysia needed investments to prosper as they created jobs and developed the economy.

"We need the market to have confidence in Malaysia," said Najib.

In order to sustain investment inflows into the country, Malaysian businesses needed to grow their productivity and be able to face global competition, he said.

DRB-HICOM Bhd Chief Operating Officer (Services and Properties), Datuk Mohamed Razeek Md Hussain, said local industries had to work to become more efficient and productive.

"When we compare our production level and efficiency with the developed countries, there are a lot we can learn. We can adopt good practices from the European countries and also Australia," he said.

Glomac Bhd Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Fateh Din Iskandar, said the government should focus on several targeted sectors instead of monitoring everything simultaneously.

"We need to narrow down to a few sectors and be good. When we work smart by focusing on four to five targeted sectors, productivity will increase.

"By being more innovative and resilient, I think we can do better than what we are faring now.

"It will also help us towards realising our aspiration of attaining the high-income nation status soon," he said.

Fateh was commenting on Najib's earlier remarks during a panel discussion that Malaysia's productivity level was not growing fast enough.

He said it was time for Malaysia to focus on promoting Kuala Lumpur as the syariah-compliant global centre as the country already has its own strength in this segment.

"Malaysia can also become a hub for halal certification as the country is seen as a liberal and progressive Islamic country," he said.

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