

## **Government Has to Diversify Revenue to Reduce Fiscal Deficit - Najib**

**Bernama**

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- The government has to diversify revenue to reduce the country's fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent this year and achieve a balanced budget by 2020.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his Facebook posting Tuesday, said sustainable spending is part of the government's 10-year Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), aimed at turning Malaysia into a high-income economy by 2020.

"We are on track to become a high-income nation as our realised investments grew by five times since 2009.

"Before the ETP, realised investment stood at 3.1 per cent and has grown to the 15.3 per cent today," he said.

Najib was referring to an article in the Wall Street Journal on June 15, "Malaysia on track to cut deficit, raise incomes," official says.

According to the article, Malaysia's economy has been growing strongly, with the gross domestic product expected to expand by as much as 5.5 per cent this year, but the debt burden remains a problem.

The article quoted Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala, as saying that the government aimed to shrink the budget deficit by cutting fuel and power subsidies, while robust economic growth would boost its revenue.

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