

**Government Values Auditors' Findings, Recommendations - Najib
Bernama
Feb 10, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- The government takes 'very seriously' the audit findings and recommendations in the Auditor-General's Report, and takes the necessary steps promptly to address the issues highlighted, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The prime minister, in his keynote address at the 13th assembly and 6th symposium of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (Asosai) here, gave the assurance that the government remains open to suggestions from the auditors.

The government also values their inputs on policy reviews and the planning and evaluation of government projects, he added.

"Freed from the constraints of electoral politics, auditors offer an independent and professional opinion, grounded in objectivity and a resolute commitment to improving productivity and increasing efficiency.

"We also take seriously our responsibility to act on the findings presented to us: to take corrective and even punitive action when necessary so that shortcomings can be addressed promptly and without prejudice," he said.

Najib also pointed out that the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Malaysia is involved in auditing large-scale government projects, such as the Mass Rapid Transit project, the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur high speed rail line, and the huge Integrated Petroleum and Gas project in Johor.

"SAI Malaysia's participation, alongside the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, will assure the public that these projects will be efficiently and effectively implemented with an eye to integrity and value for money," he said.

The prime minister said the government seeks the continued assistance of the auditors as it looks to build a strong and efficient public service, and to maintain public trust in the system of governance.

Sharing Malaysia's experience with the participants, Najib said that since the implementation of the national transformation programme in 2008, the National Audit Department has been assigned specific tasks to nurture a high-performance culture in the public service.

He said these included the introduction of the Accountability Index in 2007 as a key performance indicator in all government departments to ensure all controlling officers comply with prevailing financial rules and regulations. Also, in 2013, a specific minister had been assigned to promote good governance and integrity.

"Indeed, there is much more accountability and transparency in government financial management today than at any time in Malaysia's history.

"This is an important part of our efforts to instill a high-performance culture in public administration for the benefit of the people," he said.

Some 800 people from 40 countries attended the four-day event which carries the theme 'Leveraging Technology to Enhance Audit Quality and Effectiveness'.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1107684>