

Future National Growth To Be Backed Up By National Productivity Growth - Najib Bernama
May 1, 2015

KUCHING, May 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the focus in the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) will be to further raise the skills of the workers and to have future national growth backed up by growth in national productivity.

The Prime Minister said, for that purpose, attention would be given to vocational type training aspects not only through government initiatives but also by involving private sector participation.

He said Malaysia could no longer be able to continue competing with cheap labour alone and, if it continued, the country would remain as a developing or third world country.

"At present skilled workers (in the country) numbered only 25.3 per cent while 61.8 per cent are those moderately skilled and the rest are lowly skilled. As such in the 11MP, which I will table next month, we want to focus on productivity led growth," he said at the national level 2015 Labour Day celebration at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK) here Friday.

The Labour Day celebration, themed "Healthy workers, Healthy Productivity" this year, recorded a historic milestone as it was the first time being held outside the peninsula and attended by about 10,000 people.

Najib said the country needed to strive in strengthening the economic growth by having workers that had the competitive edge.

He said workers' pay component in the gross domestic product (GDP) currently was around 30 per cent compared to 28 per cent in previous years and he hoped to see the percentage being raised to 40 per cent as enjoyed by developed countries.

According to him, the government was making comprehensive plans in the development of workers and implemented them in a more systematic way to ensure a brighter future for all but it could not be accomplished in the blink of an eye.

"We are not a government that burden the people, we want to help the people. I practise an administration that engages the people, we ask for their views," he said.

The Prime Minister later presented 18 Labour Day awards to recipients in various categories.

Also present were Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot, federal and state ministers as well as trade union leaders.

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