

**World-Class Education Crucial To Remain Competitive - Najib
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CYBERJAYA, May 12 (Bernama) -- It is crucial for the young generation to receive a world-class education that will enable Malaysia to remain competitive, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak tonight.

He said education was key to the country's future and that was why the government formulated the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025.

"It is you, the young people of Malaysia, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. We have been working tirelessly towards ensuring Malaysia reaches high income status in 2020.

"You will be determining the shape of our country in 2040, 2050 and beyond," Najib said in his closing speech at the National Academic Decathlon 2015 at LimKokWing University of Creative Technology here.

The prime minister reminded that education was not just about learning specific facts and figures, but being able to see both sides of an argument by thinking widely about a subject and questioning.

"Facts and figures are important though that is. And as someone who trained as an industrial economist, I can tell you that I do know all about that kind of studying.

"Asking 'why', (will) allow your minds to open and develop and for learning to be a voyage of discovery," he added.

On the National Academic Decathlon, Najib said this competition had tested all participants on their critical thinking, on their speaking and writing skills on their knowledge of important global issues, and on their capacity to learn in a short period of time, and on how to lead and work with others.

"Without a doubt, I am sure that all of you here are now better students from having been challenged so rigorously and I hope to feel invigorated and excited by the process, and remember that experience after you leave.

"As young Malaysians proud of your country, I know you will want nothing less. That starts with your education, and this decathlon is a wonderful addition to that," he noted.

In addition, Najib said it not only provided a competition that demonstrated enjoyable learning but it also an educational platform accessible to all students across Malaysia.

The national round of the National Academic Decathlon, held from May 9 to 12 this year, saw more than 300 students from 12 states nationwide taking part.

These students have qualified from the five regional rounds, compete through five challenging ranging across five subject areas to represent Malaysia at World Scholar's Cup and the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in the United States.

The competition is jointly organised by Yayasan Minda and the Malaysian Institute for Debate and Public Speaking held at at LimKokWing University of Creative Technology.

Also present were Founder President Tan Sri Prof Dr Lim Kok Wing and the National Academic Decathlon 2015 chairman Senator Tan Sri Prof Dr Ibrahim Shah Abu Shah.

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