

Unhelpful criticism will create chaos, confuse Malaysians, warns Najib
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By Anisah Shukry

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak tonight warned that non-constructive criticism against the government would disrupt the nation's progress, create chaos and leave Malaysians confused.

In his speech at the launch of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) 2014 report, Najib said that he welcomed criticism and suggestions, but added that they must be constructive.

"We have listened to complaints and criticism and welcome views of all. But you must remember, any criticism and suggestions must be constructive, and not just blind attacks.

"Because only with constructive criticism and suggestions, can we correct and improve all our shortcomings and weaknesses.

"Otherwise, the country's development will be disrupted, chaotic, and can complicate the situation, and would confuse the rakyat," said the prime minister, who has come under criticism since last year by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his governance and some national policies.

Najib was giving a speech at Angkasapuri, the headquarters of the national broadcaster in Kuala Lumpur, which was also televised live tonight.

Dr Mahathir has gone on a tirade against Najib in recent months, urging the prime minister to step down over the 1MDB scandal, for continuing the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) cash aid, and also over the murder of a Mongolian woman, Altantuya Shaariibuu.

But Najib tonight said that the government was not "syok sendiri" (Malay slang for being full of themselves) and added that the reports he was launching proved this.

"It is clear that the GTP and ETP are proof that the government has not been resting on its laurels.

"In the simple language of the youth nowadays, what the government is doing now is not 'syok sendiri', but has been working based on the feedback and discussions with Malaysians from every layer of society.

"This has been the basis of my leadership. The engagement and the understanding the needs of the rakyat, are paramount in guiding me to deliver the right programmes for all Malaysians."

He said that the GTP last year achieved a 105% success rate across all seven National

Key Results Areas (NKRA), which covered rural development, urban public transport, quality education, cost of living, living standards of low-income households, and crime reduction.

In terms of the ETP, the gross national income grew from US\$7,059 (RM24,900) in 2009 to US\$10,426 in 2014, said Najib.

"Everything that is recorded in the GTP and ETP reports are based on facts and figures, and has been verified by all quarters, at both the national and international level, and accredited auditors.

"This means that we did not create the numbers and digits, or the celebrated government index; we did not pluck it from the clouds or the great blue sky.

"I bring this up because, lately, the government has been criticised heavily by some quarters," said Najib, although he did not mention any names.

He said that no country or civilisation was built in a day, and that every successful country was formed from the government's systematic planning and administration.

Najib added that the public must be aware that in the 60 years since Malaysia achieved independence, the Barisan Nasional-led administration was "efficient and systematic".

"Up to today, we continue with the ultimate goal, which remains one and the same: to see Malaysia emerge as a prosperous and harmonious country that will be inherited by our grandchildren in the future." – April 28, 2015.

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