

**PM's National Day Message Honest And Forthright  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The National Day 2015 Message delivered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak tonight has been described as honest and forthright, particularly in relation to the country's economy.

Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Salleh Said Keruak said he hoped that the people could accept and understand the essence of the message with an open mind for the future of a glorious nation.

"With the strong country's economic fundamentals, I believe that the country will be able to strive for a brighter future," he told reporters after The National Day 2015 Message ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here.

Najib, when delivering the message, said he had established a special committee comprising 10 economists and corporate leaders who would tackle the the economic issues Malaysia is currently facing.

Apart from that, Najib said Malaysia currently ranked 12th out of 60 countries in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2014.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Liow Tiong Lai said the message coincided with the country's current situation, and urged the people to revive the spirit of solidarity.

"He (Najib) has reminded people of all races to recall the spirit of independence as it is important to revive the patriotic spirit," said the MCA president.

Liow said Najib's call to the people to work together with one heart and one soul in facing whatever challenges was important towards the realisation of Vision 2020 (Malaysia's aspiration to be a developed country by 2020).

Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said the Prime Minister's message should be remembered, understood and etched in the minds of the people.

"The Prime Minister has outlined a number of important facts, among others to always remember and appreciate the deeds and sacrifices of the nation's independence fighters," he said.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki said to ensure Malaysia's excellent track record was maintained, all Malaysians irrespective of political ideologies must put the country first.

"We must also be grateful for the peace and progress we are enjoying and continue to seek

Allah's blessings," he said.

Customs director-general Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad said the message delivered by the prime minister should be appreciated by all in taking Malaysia forward.

Karyawan president Datuk Freddie Fernandez said the prime minister's explanation on the economic situation gave confidence to the people that steps are being taken to tackle economic issues.

Dzulfikar Kamal Kamarudin, 31, a representative of the Malaysian Scouts Federation, said the message reminded Malaysians on the country's struggle for independence.

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