

**JKR Must Become Agent of Change for National Development - Najib  
Bernama  
Dec 7, 2016**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the Public Works Department (JKR) to play a bigger role by becoming an agent of change in national development instead of merely being a technical department.

The Prime Minister said although erecting a building or other facility was the main function of the JKR, the department could also identify new methods or technology in construction that could benefit the country or people.

"We must see whether the method used could help in the achievement of our key performance index (KPI) or anything for our country.

"For example, the ownership of affordable homes and rural education where the people could be more comfortable with a more modern building because of the availability of better and the latest technology (for construction)," he said in his speech at the official opening of the Public Works Tower or Menara Kerja Raya, here today.

He said that the JKR, as a technical department, must absorb research culture, innovation and the latest technology and should not be complacent merely with the existing skills and technological applications.

Najib said the department must take bold measures to use new technology which had been identified in any building project.

"It is not merely related to the construction of a building, but the impact from the construction must bring spillover benefits to other dimensions, such as the ownership of affordable homes or building of rural schools," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said the construction of the 'Menara Kerja Raya' was an example of development based on the concept of environment friendly and sustainable development desired by the government.

He said the concept was crucial in realising the government's intention and aspiration to become a developed and successful nation through the National Transformation 50 (TN50) policy.

"In heading for TN50, certainly every aspect of development that we implement whether from the public or private sector must be based on the concepts of environment friendly and sustainable development," he said.

The Prime Minister also expressed his pride over the success of the construction of the tower which had received recognition from various groups including receiving the platinum rating from the Green Building Index on June 13.

The Menara Kerja Raya is 175 metres high, comprising 37 storeys located at Jalan Sultan Salahuddin, here and the building was completed on April 15 last year at a cost of RM309 million.

The tower was a project under the 10th Malaysia Plan and was built through the design and build method. It is fully owned by the Ministry of Works and is the headquarters of the Public Works Department.

The tower was built using the 'diamond in the city' design with the triangular glass facade as the main attraction and using the Industrial Building System (IBS) with the green building characteristics including in terms of manpower efficiency, water efficiency and use of environment friendly materials.

Also present at the ceremony were Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and his deputy, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin as well as the top management and staff of the Ministry of Works.

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