

Speech at The KL Summit Roundtable Session

By : YAB. TUN DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD, PERDANA
MENTERI MALAYSIA

Venue : EXHIBITION HALL 7, LEVEL 3, KUALA LUMPUR
CONVENTION CENTRE (KLCC)

Date : 19/12/2019

Thank you very much for participating in this round table session in which we are discussing “The Priority of Development and The Challenges”

INTRODUCTION

1. We have spoken at length on the state of affairs of the Muslim world. While we may not have been able to fully dissect all that had caused our pain and anguish, we are mostly in agreement that it is our inability to keep up with the progress and development of the non-Muslims that have left us in the lurch.

2. Due to that, Muslims the world over suffer and as many are dependent on the mercy and charity of the non-Muslims.

3. To my mind, we have no choice but to develop and progress as fast as possible if we are to remedy all the misfortunes that had befallen our Ummah.

4. We have witnessed how non-Muslim nations that were devastated by wars have been able to literally rise from the ashes and become developed and leading nations of the world.

MAKING DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS A PRIORITY

5. Let me share some of the development strategies that Malaysia had prepared for its future aimed at ensuring sustainable growth and progress. I am sure that you have your own strategies as well.

6. One of our strategy is our five-year development plans, of which, the 11th edition which started in 2016 is ending next year and the 12th edition will start in 2021. These plans provides a clear strategic direction to set the way forward for national development agenda.

7. On top of that, we have recently launched our national development blueprint called “Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. It is a document that outlines a 10-year goal to re-structure Malaysia’s low-skill labour-intensive economy to a knowledge-based economy where its citizens enjoy a decent standard of living.

8. The blueprint is a commitment to make Malaysia a nation that achieves sustainable growth along with fair and equitable distribution across income groups, ethnicities regions and supply chains.

9. It is also a commitment at ensuring political stability, enhancing the nation’s prosperity and ensuring that the citizens are united while celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity.

10. Further to that, any development efforts that we pursue today are not merely centred on growth and economic gains but must be in tandem with sustainability, human capital and environmental conservation.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AMID THE RAPID PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

11. One of the biggest challenge we face while drawing up development plans and strategies is dealing with the disruption caused by technological advancement.

12. The rapid pace of these technological advancements threatens to make obsolete some of the strategies and plans we chart today within a few years.

13. We are today witnessing almost daily, how some cutting edge technology and advanced economic ventures which are merely a few years old had been made inconsequential and that had led to some segments of our workforce being made irrelevant.

14. In that context, our challenge becomes two-pronged – firstly, to come up with development strategies and secondly, to make sure they are continuously upgraded so as not to be irrelevant when new technologies emerge.

15. In Malaysia, to deal with the fourth industrial revolution or I.R (Industry 4WRD), last year we introduced a national policy called Industry Forward. Industry Forward is mainly focussed on digitally transforming Malaysia's manufacturing sector and related services. The policy envisions Malaysia as a strategic partner for smart manufacturing, a primary destination for high- technologies and a total solution provider for the manufacturing sector in the region.

CONCLUSION

16. Obviously, for the Muslim community, all these only serve to remind us of how far behind we are and how we have to work doubly hard to catch up with the rest of the world.

17. On one hand, we are dependent on the creations and technologies of the non-Muslims and when we managed to catch up, they are already ahead with new technological advancements that we now need to acquire and familiarise.

18. If we do not start creating and developing our own technologies we will forever be playing catch up with the rest of the developed nations.

19. We have no choice but to start working on this and I truly hope that at the end of this Summit, we will come up with tangible strategies and approaches.

Thank you.

Copyright of the Prime Minister's Office Official Website

Source: <https://www.pmo.gov.my/2019/12/speech-at-the-kl-summit-roundtable-session/>