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TARIKH: 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

Malaysia perlu kekalkan momentum ekonomi

NEW YORK 29 Sept. - Malaysia perlu mengekalkan momentum pertumbuhan ekonomi sekitar enam peratus yang dicatatkan sekarang bagi memastikan matlamatnya menjadi negara berpendapatan tinggi dapat dicapai menjelang tahun 2020.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yang percaya sasaran tersebut akan dapat direalisasikan menyifatkan Malaysia berada di jajaran yang betul untuk mencapai wawasan itu sungguhpun situasi ekonomi semasa tidak menentu. "Apa yang kita perlu buat ialah kita kena sentiasa bersedia untuk berhadapan dengan keadaan yang berubah dan kejutan luar yang berada di luar kawalan kita.

"Kita mesti terus mengekalkan momentum kita yang bergerak ke hadapan," katanya pada mesyuarat tahunan Majlis Penasihat Sains dan Inovasi Global (GSIAC) kelima di Hotel Marriot East Side di sini semalam.

GSIAC ditubuhkan atas inisiatif Najib pada tahun 2011 dengan antara pengasasnya ialah bekas Duta Malaysia ke Amerika Syarikat, Allahyarham Tan Sri Dr. Jamaluddin Jarjis yang meninggal dunia dalam nahas helikopter di Malaysia pada 4 April lalu.

Fungsinya adalah untuk bekerjasama dengan tokoh-tokoh sains Amerika Syarikat dan antarabangsa bagi mentransformasikan ekonomi Malaysia dan memberinya suatu lompatan kuantum melalui projek-projek bersama dalam bidang sains dan inovasi.

Antara tokoh bidang sains yang turut hadir dalam mesyuarat bersama Perdana Menteri di New York semalam ialah Profesor Joseph D. Brain dari Universiti Harvard dan T.C. Westcott, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Akademi Sains New York. GSIAC disertai oleh barisan tokoh sains, industri dan korporat dari Malaysia dan antarabangsa.

Mesyuarat tahunan GSIAC itu antara lain dihadiri Penasihat Sains kepada Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid; Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Madius Tangau; Menteri Pendidikan Tinggi, Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh; Men-



NAJIB TUN RAZAK bergambar bersama para saintis sebelum bermula mesyuarat tahunan Majlis Penasihat Sains dan Inovasi Global (GSIAC) kelima di New York, kelmarin. Turut hadir, Zakri Abdul Hamid (dua dari kanan), T.C. Westcott (dua dari kiri) dan Idris Jusoh (kiri). - BERNAMA

teri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Senator Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar dan Menteri Besar Johor, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Dalam mesyuarat itu yang diadakan sempena lawatan kerja Perdana Menteri ke Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB), Najib memberitahu GSIAC bahawa kesejahteraan negara dan kebajikan rakyat sentiasa menjadi keprihatinan dan keutamaannya.

Najib berkata, laluan untuk Malaysia mencapai sepenuhnya status negara maju tidak selalunya lancar

dan mudah serta penuh cabaran.

"Walaupun kita hidup pada zaman inovasi teknologi yang hebat, dengan pendapatan tinggi dan peluang yang bertambah, kita masih lagi tertakluk kepada faktor ekonomi global yang sukar diramalkan yang kita tidak dapat mengawalinya.

"Situasi ekonomi semasa yang meruap yang kita hadapi di Malaysia dan seluruh dunia sekarang adalah salah satu contohnya," kata beliau.

Menurut Perdana Menteri, model pertumbuhan Malaysia telah memberikan hasil yang cemerlang

tetapi ia dicapai sebahagiannya kerana faktor sikap.

"Kita mencapai semua kejayaan itu kerana kita sanggup menilai prestasi kita dengan cara terbuka dan telus, dan membuat penyesuaian apabila keadaan memerlukan," katanya.

Malaysia, tegas Najib, sentiasa cuba mengimbangi antara ekonomi modal dan ekonomi rakyat, antara pengurusan ekonomi daripada perspektif makro dan ekonomi berorientasikan rakyat seperti kos sara hidup, pendapatan isi rumah dan lain-lain tema ekonomi.

Perdana Menteri percaya bahawa dari segi perspektif teoritik, ekonomi modal dan ekonomi rakyat tidak dapat dipisahkan dan ia wujud dalam satu hubungan simbiotik.

Katanya, Malaysia telah memberi penekanan kepada kedua-dua aspek ekonomi itu dalam program ekonomi lima tahun Rancangan Malaysia Kesebelas (RMK-11) bertemakan Pertumbuhan Berpaksikan Rakyat dengan peruntukan RM260 bilion yang dibentangkan pada Mei lalu. - UTUSAN

PRIME NEWS

'Our strength will see us through'

FUNDAMENTALS:

Numbers show economy on right track, says PM



MUSTAPHA KAMIL

NEW YORK

MALAYSIA'S strong fundamentals will see it through the current weak period in the global economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said despite global challenges, many of which were beyond Malaysia's control, Malaysian society must be agile and be prepared to make changes to adapt to the prevailing environment.

Speaking at the opening of the 5th Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) annual meeting here yesterday, Najib reiterated the government's confidence of turning Malaysia into a high-income nation by 2020.

He outlined indicators to support the government's assertion of the economy being on the right track.

Najib is here leading Malaysia's delegation to the 70th session of the

United Nations General Assembly.

The Malaysian economy has been growing at an average of six per cent a year and this year is expected to grow by five per cent, compared with a seven per cent contraction during the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Najib said lessons learned from the crisis had helped in strengthening economic fundamentals. For example, the government's fiscal deficit had been narrowed to 3.2 per cent this year from 6.7 per cent in 2009.

Malaysia's banking system had remained strong, with ample liquidity, low non-performing loan rates and the economy showing low and manageable inflation. Najib also mentioned the success of the National Transformation Programme which, among others, had drastically cut poverty rate to just 0.6 per cent last year from 49.3 per cent in 1970.

He said gross domestic product rose by 47.7 per cent from 2009 while some 1.8 million jobs had been created through the government's Economic Transformation Programme launched in 2010.

The international community, he said, recognised Malaysia's strengths and added that international ratings agencies had continued to rate Malaysia highly in their ratings.

The prime minister said the core attributes to Malaysia's ability to weather various instances of economic challenges had been its policy of not being averse to changes and continued willingness to eval-

uate its own performances in an open and transparent manner.

The GSIAC was formed in 2011 and is considered crucial in helping the government's efforts towards turning Malaysia into a high-income nation. Also attending the meeting was executive vice-president and chief operating officer of the New York Academy of Sciences, T.C. Westcott.

Attendees from Malaysia included

Science Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and Academy of Sciences Malaysia president Tan Sri Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

Before declaring the meeting open, Najib paid tribute to one of the GSIAC's architects, the late Tan Sri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis, who was killed

in a helicopter crash early this year.

"JJ's (as he was fondly known) demise was a personal loss to me, as he was a very dear friend and someone who has done much for the nation. When he was our ambassador in Washington, he played a vital role in building relations with the US," Najib said.

A short video was played in remembrance of the late Jamaluddin.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 2
TARIKH: 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

On guard against external shocks

PM: Economic fundamentals strong enough to weather troubled times

THE country must always be prepared for external shocks that are beyond its control and maintain momentum to stay on track to become a high-income nation by 2020.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that despite being in an age of great technological innovation and increased opportunity, the country was still at the mercy of often unpredictable global economic factors.

"The current volatile economic situation being faced by Malaysia and the rest of the world is a case in point," he said in his opening address at the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council's (GSIAC) 5th annual meeting here on Monday.

GSIAC was set up to boost Malaysia's efforts in science and

LEANNE GOH
in New York



innovation, using science to help advance the country's "high-income economy" agenda.

Chaired by the Prime Minister, it comprises global industry leaders from cutting-edge fields, prominent academicians, as well as members of the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), with Malaysian corporate leaders and officials from key ministries.

Najib said that while there was modest growth in the global economy, heightened uncertainty and volatile financial markets as well as

the sharp fall in the price of oil and other primary commodities, it was not all bad news.

He reiterated that the fundamentals of the Malaysian economy remained strong, as supported by five indicators.

There was a 5% growth rate, a reduced negative fiscal deficit with strong capitalisation and ample liquidity in the financial system, and positive results from the transformation programmes, like the 1.8 million new jobs since the launch of the Economic Transformation Programme in 2010.

Another indicator, he said, was that Malaysia was still viewed by the world as being able to effectively manage the economy in the face of many challenges.

"This is proven by the ratings and

reports of the international financial agencies such as Fitch Ratings, Moody's, Standard & Poor's as well as the actual picture of the economic situation and the current economic management."

At the same time, Malaysia had ranked 12th out of 60 countries in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2014, added Najib.

He is expected to share more details from the council meeting during his wrap-up session with the Malaysian media tomorrow just before he leaves the United States for a working trip to Milan, Italy.

Also present at the council meeting were NYAS executive vice-president TC Wescott; GSIAC joint secretary and the Prime Minister's science advisor Prof Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid; and president and

CEO of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman.

Ministers present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh; Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Madius Tangau; and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar.

The high-level half-day meeting of global subject matter experts, government officials and corporate leaders focused on the GSIAC assessment report, the implementation of science and innovation in the 11th Malaysia Plan and the OECD reviews of Malaysian innovation policy.

Watch the video
thestar.com.my/Videos/



KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 12
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Air Pollutant Index (As at 8pm, Sept 29)

X Unhealthy X Moderate X Good

Sg Petani	Ipoh	Port Klang	Kuala Lumpur	Petaling Jaya	Nilai	Port Dickson	Malacca	Muar	Kuantan	Kuching
52	55	92	73	79	90	114	126	115	135	72

Short reprieve from haze soon

Clear weather expected in next few days but smog will return this weekend

By **JOASH EE DE SILVA**
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians will enjoy a short reprieve from the haze in the next few days, but it is set to make a return over the weekend.

According to Meteorological Department spokesman **Dr Hisham Mohd Anip**, the phasing out of Typhoon Dujuan in Taiwan yesterday would see winds being pulled from clearer parts of Indonesia.

The winds over Sarawak had already shifted yesterday evening

but for peninsular Malaysia, the wind will start shifting today.

"Also, more rain is expected in the next two or three days, which will cause haze levels to gradually decline," said Hisham.

However, another low-pressure area is slowly building up in the northern part of the South China Sea close to the west of the Philippines.

"This means that on Saturday or Sunday, the winds will shift again, bringing back the air from the dense haze areas in Indonesia to Malaysia," he said.

Dr Hisham said this condition

would last until the end of next week as the low-pressure area enhances into a tropical cyclone.

He added that the severity of the haze would be hard to predict as there had been interference in their satellite readings of hotspots in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

The constant change of winds, he said, was most likely due to the El Nino effect, which is reported to be the strongest in over half a century.

"Usually we only experience thick haze for about two or three weeks, but this year it has persisted longer than usual," Hisham added.

As of 5pm yesterday, 10 areas recorded unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings. The areas were Kota Tinggi (111), Larkin Lama (126), Muar (113), Pasir Gudang (121) in Johor, Bandaraya Malacca (118), Bukit Rambai (118) in Malacca, Port Dickson (101) in Negri Sembilan, Balok Baru (126), Indera Mahkota (114) in Pahang and Kemaman (108) in Terengganu.

At the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, as at 5.30m, all flights have gone on as scheduled except for one AirAsia flight from Kuala Lumpur to Pekanbaru, which was delayed because visibility was

below the minimum level due to the haze.

According to Malindo Air chief executive officer Chandran Rama Murthy, Subang Airport also enjoyed a day of smooth flights except for those flying to Kerteh airport, which was closed down due to the haze.

As for Firefly, only one flight was affected by the closing down of Kerteh airport, said its chief executive officer Ignatius Ong.

"We arranged for a bus to transport the passengers from Kerteh to Kuantan airport before flying them to Subang," he said.

