

1. Civil services to adopt 5 thrusts for 11MP: Najib

PUTRAJAYA: The 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) must be the focus of the civil service without allowing other factors to distract them from their objectives.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he had tabled the 11MP as simple as possible, as the country set its sight to become a high income advance nation.

In this respect, Najib said the civil services must adopt five main thrusts namely being a government that is pro-growth, pro-rakyat, pro-business, pro-sustainable and environmental development and continued in the nation building process.

"As a pro-growth government, we must practice the policies that ensures higher and medium growth.

"We must also be pro-rakyat through distribution of wealth for those in the lower income group and address the high cost of living.

"In terms of pro-business, the private sectors and government linked companies (GLC) should be the key drivers of the nation's economy instead of relying solely on the government per say," he said at the Prime Minister's Department monthly gathering this morning.

Najib also cited the recent flooding in the East Coast as a valuable lesson for all to be a pro-environment government.

"The civil service must also remember the country is still in the process of nation building and there are many things that needed to be carried out, hence the government should promote solidarity, racial unity and strengthen its policies founded on the Wasatiah (moderation) as well as the 1Malaysia concept."

2. BNM has started formal enquiry on 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia has embarked on a formal enquiry into the affairs of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to see if it has broken any rules or legislation.

"The central bank is also taking statements from individuals involved in the governance process and obtaining information from other relevant domestic and foreign parties.

"In addition, BNM has forwarded information received from foreign authorities to the relevant investigation agencies after obtaining the permission from the foreign authorities," it said in a statement.

According to BNM, all investments that exceed RM50 million per calendar year and any offshore borrowings that exceed RM100 million by resident entities requires its approval.

"In relation to this, all submissions that were made by 1MDB have had to comply with the same approval criteria that is applied to submissions by other business entities."

If the criteria is not met, the submission will be rejected.

"No leniency or special exceptions were accorded to 1MDB."

BNM assured that it is doing everything within the powers provided under its legislation, including collaborating with other agencies, to contribute towards a swift resolution of the matter.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Wednesday, 3 June, 2015

3. Rationalisation of 1MDB to reduce debts: Husni

KUALA LUMPUR: The rationalisation plan for 1MDB is meant to reduce its debt burden, and not to bail-out the company, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Husni Hanadzlah said.

Appearing on TV1's live Dialog programme titled "1MDB: Where is the money?", he reiterated that the company, while government-owned, differed from other national investment entities because it had to seek its own funding.

In addition to the RM1 billion initial capitalisation from the government, 1MDB borrowed from various financial institutions to acquire assets including power plants and land, which grew tremendously within the short span of six years.

"We wanted to do an IPO (listing) of 1MDB's energy assets (which would have raised funds), but the financial accounts were not ready and we had to delay. This led to the company being faced with a cash-flow problem," Husni said.

With insufficient funds, 1MDB was under pressure to meet its debt repayment obligations. The solution was to undertake a rationalisation of the company.

On allegations of billions 'lost' or 'missing', Husni said 1MDB has already given a detailed breakdown of what the funds were used for, and there was no issue of money unaccounted for.

"These funds were borrowed from the financial sector. If there really was RM27 billion lost, the financial sector would not have kept quiet about it until now," he added.

4. One hospital, eight clinics affected in Sabah earthquake

GEORGE TOWN: The Ranau Hospital and at least eight clinics around Ranau, Tuaran and Papar were affected by the earthquake which struck Sabah, last Friday.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said the walls of the four-storey quarters at the Ranau Hospital were cracked, and they have been vacated.

Besides that, the ceiling in the outpatient department of the hospital also fell down, with lights and fans coming off, but no injuries were reported, he said.

"The engineers are assessing the damage caused, and I intend to go there to see for myself the condition of the affected facilities, and the situation of the people there," he told reporters here today.

In Papar, the Lohan District Clinic, Bundu Tuhan Health Clinic, Kundasang Health Clinic, Terolobou District Clinic, Rondogung District Clinic, Pinawantai District Clinic, also had some cracks.

In Tuaran, the Bantayan Tamparuli District and Kelawat District Clinic had cracks on the stairs, while there were traces of cracks at the Simpangan District Clinic quarters.

Meanwhile, the Papar Maternal and Child Health Clinic's main door was cracked, but no untoward incident occurred.

Dr Hilmi said so far the ministry had placed three teams at the 'Timpohon Medical Base' located at the foot of Mount Kinabalu, comprising specialists, doctors, medical officers, nurses and support staff.

"So far we received 13 bodies and all of them have been identified and four body parts believed to be from different victims," he said.

Yesterday, a total of 11 bodies were found at Mount Kinabalu, bringing the total death count for the incident to 13, while six climbers are still missing.

At 7.15am on Friday (June 5), an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck the Ranau area in Sabah, making it the strongest earthquake experienced in Malaysia.

The moderate earthquake was followed by small tremors in four other areas, namely Tambunan, Tuaran, Kota Kinabalu and Kota Belud. -Bernama

5. UM in top 30 QS Asia rankings

KUALA LUMPUR: Four Malaysian public universities, all research universities, have improved on their rankings in the 2015 QS Asian University Rankings as compared to last year.

Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said Universiti Malaya rose to 29th place from 32 last year while Universiti Sains Malaysia to 49 from 57.

He said Universiti Teknologi Malaysia was ranked 61st from its former position of 66, Universiti Putra Malaysia (76 to 66), while Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia remained in 56th position.

The QS Asian University Rankings has highlighted the 300 top universities in Asia since 2009.

Idris announced this during a briefing titled "Continuous Improvement: Transformation and Success in Malaysian Education" at the Malaysian National News Agency's (Bernama) headquarters here, yesterday today.

Speaking to reporters after the briefing, Idris said the country's public universities achieved better performance in various fields in recent years, including being listed in the top 100 subjects ranking in the world through QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015.

He was also confident that the target for the public universities to be ranked in the world's 100 best universities in the next two years would be achieved through the Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025.—BERNAMA

6. No qualms for 1MDB proceedings to go live

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has no qualms for the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) probe proceedings to be televised live.

Its chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said having it televised for the public to watch was not a problem and the committee had also raised similar views.

Speaking to reporters at the Parliament here today, he (BN-Pulai) said the issue was the current parliamentary procedures did not allow it to be shown live.

He said the main issue was on whom can make the decision - whether it was the prerogative of the Dewan Rakyat speaker or the Cabinet since the Parliament is under the purview of the Cabinet.

Lim Lip Eng (DAP-Segambut) had called on PAC to hold a live telecast of the proceedings as it is in line with a national crisis which has gained scrutiny and massive public interest.

It was also learnt that a similar suggestion was raised by former Umno lawmaker and deputy minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah after the Nothing2Hide forum was postponed. He said suggested it as the public genuinely wanted to know the solution to the 1MDB issue.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Saturday, 13 June 2015

7. Ministry mulling over using 1Malaysia internet centres for healthcare application

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The communication and multimedia ministry is mulling over whether an internet-based rural healthcare system developed by the Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd can be applied for the people's benefit nationwide, especially rural folks.

Deputy minister Datuk Jailani Johari said this also involved whether the application could be used through the many 1Malaysia Internet centres set up in such areas nationwide.

He told the media this after launching the RiGHT CHANGE, the internet-based healthcare at Kampung Tambirat in Asajay here today.

Jailani said the MEASAT-supported system which provided the internet link was a smart move and would reduce costs and waiting time for rural folks wanting to know about their sickness or state of health.

He said after going through four screening processes, a patient could then have a teleconference with a panel doctor at such centres alone.

"Our many 1Malaysia Internet centres nationwide have faster broadband speed. We will apply this application in the state first to see its effectiveness before going nationwide," he said, adding that the state currently had about 20 RiGHT CHANGE Centres.

Jailani said for Sarawak, the government would build another 52 1Malaysia Internet Centres to add to the current 58.

"The state too, has a total of 203 telecommunication towers todate, and another 147 are in the process of being erected."

He said the government too, was in the process of laying a 3,500km-long marine cable from Mersing in Johor, to Kuching and Kota Kinabalu as part of its programmes to enhance internet connectivity nationwide. - BERNAMA

8. Khairy: Disciplinary action should be taken on civil servants who failed to settle PTPTN loans

PUTRAJAYA: Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin today suggested that disciplinary action be taken against public servants who failed to make repayments of their National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) loans.

He said there was no excuse, especially for those holding senior government posts, to not repay their PTPTN loans.

"Loan borrowers who do not make repayments have breached their agreement and they are also denying the rights of other students for the facility.

"As we know, the amount of PTPTN loan has been reduced because many (borrowers) do not pay back," he added.

Khairy said the Public Service Department should consider taking disciplinary action against those involved.

He was commenting a newspaper report today which said that more than 33,000 public servants still did not pay their PTPTN loans.

Khairy was met after flagging off participants for the 'Reach Out Run: Run for a Cause', a charity programme organised by iM4U to raise funds for four selected welfare organisations.

A total of RM200,000 was raised from the run and the money will be given to the Heart Foundation of Malaysia, Dyslexia Association of Malaysia, SVM Welfare Association and Langkawi Animal Shelter and Sanctuary Foundation. --Bernama

9. 241 recommendations in second series of AG's 2014 report

KUALA LUMPUR: Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang submitted 241 recommendations in the 2nd Series of his report for 2014.

Ninety proposals were for the Federal Government, 56 for federal statutory bodies and 95 for state governments in making improvements and addressing the weaknesses reported.

"The audits covered the program scope, construction, maintenance, purchasing, revenue management, environmental and company management," he said.

The 2nd series of the 2014 Annual Report of the Auditor-General was tabled in Parliament today after receiving the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

He said that in the 2nd Series Report, 57 performance auditing and 18 management auditing of government companies had been carried out at the federal, state and Federal Statutory Bodies level.

Ambrin said the Finance Ministry had issued a Feedback Report on the 2nd Series of the 2014 Annual Report of the Auditor-General which gave comments and the latest action from the Service Head on the issues reported by the Auditor-General in his annual report.

It also aimed to evaluate to what extent public funds had been spent prudently without any leakage and wastage and receiving the best value for the money spent.

The contents and synopsis of the 2nd Series report can be obtained at Auditor-General's Department's website at <http://www.audit.gov.my> beginning today or views on the report could be addressed to 'Warkah Untuk Ketua Audit Negara'.

The 1st Series of the 2014 Annual Report of the Auditor-General had been tabled in Parliament on April 6. BERNAMA

NEW STRAITS TIMES Monday, 15 June 2015

10. AG's interim report on 1MDB ready by month-end

KUALA LUMPUR: The interim report on the probe into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) carried out by the Auditor General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang will be ready by month-end.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said the interim report would be tabled to the committee once it is completed.

However, he said the report would not be made public and the findings of the interim report would assist the committee on the probe that it is currently carrying out on the government-linked investment arm.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had ordered the Auditor-General to conduct an independent check into the accounts of the investment arm.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday, 23 June 2015

11. PSD forms five task forces to conduct probe based on AG's report

The Public Service Department (PSD) has formed five task forces to probe nine "punitive" reprimands in the Auditor General's report towards the Education Ministry and Prime Minister's Department. Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ali Hamsa said two of the nine punitive reprimands in the second series of the Auditor-General's report 2014 involved a cost of RM166,259

whereas the others were due to non-compliance to finance regulations. He said the task forces have also identified 18 officers who will have disciplinary action taken against them. This, he said, was among the measures taken by the government in wake of the report which was tabled in parliament on Jun 15. In the report, some 635 reprimands were made by the Auditor-General, of which 17 were "punitive" while the remaining 618 were "corrective". "I've been made to understand that ministries were now more proactive in forming their probing task forces, and making corrections and improvements to procedures as soon as the 'Exit Conference' stage," "From these efforts, I have seen the level of awareness and commitment of the civil service.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday, 23 June 2015

12. 1MDB: Asset acquisitions driven by long-term view

The following is a statement issued by 1mdb today. 1MDB notes a recent Wall Street Journal article suggesting that 1MDB had overpaid for the acquisition of its energy assets. As we have previously stated, we only acquire assets when we are convinced that they represent long-term value, and to suggest that any of our acquisitions were driven by political considerations is simply false. The fact of the matter is that these claims are a repetition of old allegations that have been driven by political opponents of the Government, including the former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. They have never been substantiated nor supported by evidence, just as Tun Mahathir has never produced any evidence for his claim that RM42 billion was missing from 1MDB, because the reality is that this RM42 billion is debt backed by RM51 billion of assets. 1MDB takes a long-term view of value when entering into transactions; not just for the company, but for the country, as befits our 100 per cent ultimate ownership by the government of Malaysia. The acquisition price we paid was based on this long-term view, as well as advice received from independent valuation advisers, and the prevailing market conditions at the time. On this basis, we believe that the value paid upon asset acquisition - which may have involved a premium in certain instances, as is common when acquiring another business - is commensurate with the existing and future potential of the assets. It is important to note that since acquiring the first energy asset in 2012, 1MDB has built a leading international independent power producer in Southeast Asia. The portfolio currently comprises 13 power plants in five countries, along with the rights to construct further gas and solar-powered plants. Today, Edra Energy is the second largest independent power producer in Malaysia, and the largest in Egypt and Bangladesh, with additional operations in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. In total, it has gross installed capacity under management of 6,619 MW with an effective capacity of approximately 5,594 MW.

13. Rembau hospital to be ready in 2017

SEREMBAN: The construction of the RM100 million Rembau Hospital is expected to be completed in 2017, hence making each district in the state to have its own hospital, according to Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

"The Rembau Hospital is being built on a 19.4-hectare site in Chembong and will have 97 beds and other facilities any other district hospitals," he told reporters after launching the MySihat programme at SJK(T) Rantau, near here today.

He said other districts which already had their own hospitals were Seremban, Port Dickson, Kuala Pilah, Jempol, Jelebu and Tampin.

The minister said with the establishment of a hospital in each district in the state, it was hoped that the healthcare services provided to the people in the state would be further improved. - BERNAMA