

PRIME NEWS

PM: Green agenda a top priority

TRANSFORMATION:

Sustainable development key to meeting TN50 goal, says Najib

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IN charting the nation towards the 2050 National Transformation (TN50), all development aspects must be sustainable and environmentally-friendly, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said as Malaysia headed towards becoming a successful and developed country, sustainable development was an important agenda.

"Even more so as we head towards TN50, all aspects of buildings in the public and private sectors must be based on sustainable development and environmentally-friendly concepts," he said at the launch of Menara Kerja Raya here yesterday.

Present were Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and his deputy, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin.

Najib said based on the country's performance, he was confident that Malaysia could achieve the target of lowering carbon emissions and greenhouse gases by 40 per cent by 2020.

He said Malaysia was committed to reducing 45 per cent of its carbon emissions by 2030, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"Seeing that we have already experienced unpredictable weather conditions, it is becoming increasingly important that we implement environmentally-friendly concepts in the country's development.

"The government is committed



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** at the launch of Menara Kerja Raya in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Works Minister **Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof** (second from left) and Deputy Works Minister **Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin** (second from right). Pic by **Saddam Yusoff**

to supporting green development by introducing a rating system for green buildings. Every new government building must have 'green' specifications, and should be built using environmentally-friendly building materials."

The 37-storey Menara Kerja Raya, completed in April last year, is the first government building to receive platinum Green Building Index certification.

Najib said the tower was listed by the United Kingdom's Business Insider as one of the top 10 best new buildings in the world.

"This tower was designed with local expertise, and we have produced an iconic skyscraper that will be one of the most significant landmarks in our country."

He hoped that such efforts would be continued, and that the skills and approaches undertaken by the designers would become an example in the development of new structures and buildings.

Najib added that the Public Works Department's efforts in pioneering green technology and energy-efficient concepts fitted well with current and future demands.

"As a technical agency, research

and innovation, as well as technological implementation, must be the working culture in the ministry.

"We cannot be satisfied with the level of skills and technology that we already have.

"We must take the brave step

forward to use new technology, whether practised by other countries or by ourselves, through research and development that would not only help development, but could also benefit other dimensions."

Najib called on the department

to be agents of change and praised them for being the "unsung heroes" who had contributed much to the country's development.

"When you look at this building, you should be inspired to lead with innovative thinking and actions," he said.