

PRESS RELEASE

DON'T JUST SIT ON YOUR JOB, OFFICERS TOLD

KOTA KINABALU, Wednesday. (Apr 7, 2010) - Staffers of the Ministry of Industrial Development all agencies under its purview must take ownership of the New Economic Model and respond accordingly.

Heads of these agencies have been directed to disseminate information and brief their officers on the policy and begin to chart their organisational strategies to ensure its effective implementation.

Minister Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah said officers at every level must seek to understand the principles, the significance and implications of the national development initiative announced last week by Prime Minister Dato Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"We can't be just sitting on our jobs. We must respond ... where do we put ourselves, where are we now, where do we need to go and what do we need to do," he implored during the quarterly MID Assembly at the Sabah Trade Centre here. "The nation is at a cross road and we cannot afford to be pedestrians in these crucial time."

About 200 officers from the ministry, the Department of Industrial Development & Research, Sabah Economic Development Corporation, K.K.I.P. Sdn Bhd, POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd and Sawpit POIC were present, together with Assistant Minister of Industrial Development Datuk Seri Panglima Michael Asang and the Ministry's permanent secretary Haji Hashim Paijan.

The NEM embraces three principles of generating high income, ensuring sustainability and inclusiveness. It seeks to double Malaysia's per capita income from USD7,000 at present to USD15,000 in 10 years, the period of the 10th and 11th Malaysia Plans.

Datuk Raymond cited as example the contradiction between the goal of generating higher income and the employment of some 200,000 cheap foreign labour in Sabah's oil palm sector as an issue which officers must seek to understand comprehensively.

"Malaysia is no longer a low-cost labour investment destination. We are depending (on cheap labour) which we no longer should depend on. But we need to help the industry to find a way to get away from this dependence otherwise we are contradicting the NEM."

He directed that for more interaction take place among officers, and inter-agency communication on the understanding and response to the NEM so as to motivate each other and share strategies.

He advocated the introduction of breakfast meetings where a less formal atmosphere could promote frank and lively exchanges of views.

He also urged the officers to keep abreast with the NEM the details of which are being progressively unveiled.

Explaining the significance of the NEM, Datuk Raymond said the fluid global economic environment demands that Malaysia constantly responds and re-invents itself to remain relevant and competitive. So too should all government officers.

He said that Malaysia survived the global financial crisis in the last year and emerged relatively unscathed was not a stroke of luck, but a result of the responsive leadership.

‘We can’t control the global economic environment, but we can control how we respond to it.

“Even when we think that we have responded well, we still can’t be sure of the eventual outcome. But one thing we know for sure is that if we don’t respond at all, disaster is certain.”

On productivity, Datuk Raymond told the officers that the completion of tasks needs to combine with a mindset of ownership.

“You are not just doing a job. You need to think that this (NEM) is your policy, this is your delivery system so that you take pride in completing your assignments.

“The Prime Minister has promised that the salary of civil servants can be raised further if they are more productive ... we can’t be thinking of achieving higher income without raising productivity, and we are part of the productivity chain of the country.”

He reminded the officers that the Government Transformation Programme, the 1Malaysia concept, the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) and the attendant reform initiatives are all spokes in the NEM wheel.

“Identify your roles and functions in all these initiatives and put your best foot forward.”

Photo: Two pictures attached

Released by Ministry of Industrial Development
7th April 2010

Inquiries to: Mr Andrew Goh H/P: 012 – 829 1832