Ways to move up the income ladder

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak came up with a New Economic Model (NEM) in March this year, which will bring the country out of its middle-income status and push it into the realm of a high-income economy.

This bold economic transformation agenda is based on three principles such as high income, sustainability and inclusiveness, which the government hopes will drive Malaysia’s economic progress to become a fully developed nation; a competitive economy that is strategically positioned and environmentally sustainable.

UniRazak’s Razak School of Government deputy dean Professor Dr Nik Rosnah Wan Abdullah said the NEM proposes to do this through eight Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIs) which include re-energising the private sector, developing a quality workforce, and creating a competitive domestic environment and growth, both in terms of enhancing the sources of growth and ensuring the sustainability of growth.

Other initiatives target the public sector and building Malaysia’s knowledge-base and infrastructure. Such ambitious agendas, she said demands a Renaissance approach for it to succeed.
High performance, good attitude and unity the key to success

For effective implementation, Najib stressed for a public sector that leans on performance. Thus, the Key Performance Index (KPI) is the performance standard to enable the public sector to be evaluated holistically.

Fundamentally, the KPI is the objective yardstick towards delivery level by assuming the Malaysian as their main clients and rendering unchallengeable performance as uttered in the tagline of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now.

It identified six major policy areas in what is known as National Key Result Areas (NKRA), in which KPIs will play an especially important role in improving the effectiveness of the public sector.

The NKRA includes crime prevention, reducing government corruption, increased access to quality education, improvements in the standard of living for low-income groups, upgrades to rural infrastructure, and improvements in public transportation.

In view of that, performance measurement can be regarded as an effective tool to gauge whether the government or public sector measures up to its expectation in the NKRA and whether or not it is accountable.

Sound policies must be complemented with strong and effective implementation and enforcement.

What is now needed is for a bureaucracy that listens and reforms to ensure that it is not “business as usual.”

“And it is in the interests of all Malaysians to support this reform agenda, lest we will be left out in the league,” said Prof Nik.

“If all Malaysians accept the philosophical foundation for unity, a healthy and constructive articulation would be that traditional rivalries and vendettas must be forgotten and divisive ideologies submerged, and all work towards common goals to achieve the high income economy that is sustainable and inclusive of all Malaysians,” she said.

For details, call 03-7627 7000, email crm@uni razak.edu.my or visit www.unirazak.edu.my