



Najib poses with recipients of appreciation certificates during the Bumiputera Empowerment Agenda G20 Appreciation Ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

## Najib: Bumiputera vendor programme successful

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday said the bumiputera vendor programme has been a success, with many projects delivered on time and below the estimated cost.

Citing an example, the prime minister said 51% of the of the MRT project was given to such vendors and they were able to deliver it ahead of time.

“The time has come for us to disregard the myth that any project given to a bumiputera vendor will run above cost and be delayed.

Najib said projects will only be awarded to such vendors after their

financial and technical portfolio have been scrutinised.

However, he said vendors cannot remain in the programme permanently.

“Bumiputera companies can now compete with others, not only locally but also internationally. There is no longer a need for this so-called local ‘Ali Babas’.

“The success of bumiputera companies has proven that they can compete with the very best,” he said in his speech before presenting certificates of appreciation to representatives of the top 10 bumiputera vendors.

He said the success of the programme

shows the Barisan Nasional government’s commitment to uplift bumiputras.

He said the government had also fine-tuned the New Economic Policy, which was introduced in 1970 to eradicate poverty of all races as well as increase bumiputera equity in the economy to 30%.

Najib said the government can help bumiputras overcome some fundamental weakness but it cannot help move them forward.

He said they must stand on their own strength and build a strong a business as well as help develop the economy. – by **Rajvinder Singh**