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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NKRAs Yield Desired Outcomes

Putrajaya: The Government Transformation Programme (GTP), which was introduced in April 2009 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with a two-fold objective – to significantly transform the government to be more effective in its delivery of public delivery services and accountable for outcomes that matter most to the *Rakyat* and to significantly move Malaysia forward to become an advanced, united as well as just society with high standards of living for all – has achieved significant results through the various initiatives of the six National Key Results Areas (NKRAs).

In presenting the GTP's performance update recently, Alex Iskandar Liew, who is the director of communications for the GTP at PEMANDU (the Performance Management and Delivery Unit in the Prime Minister's Department) said the overall crime index has dropped 16.24 percent (August 2009 vs August 2010) and street crime has also seen significant decrease to 37 percent in the same time period.

Liew said the positive results were driven by, among other initiatives, police omnipresence (2,026 per day) and diligence at various crime hotspots, the mobilisation of 372,550 Rakan Cop members and 105,850 *Skim Rondaan Sukarela* (SRS) members in addition to the

reassignment of 6,791 Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) personnel to the frontline and 3,814 civilians to PDRM desk jobs.

In education, an additional 54,569 children have benefited from 1,358 pre-school classes. Malaysia currently has a total of 697,469 children enrolled in pre-schools throughout the country. All primary and secondary schools in the country have also been ranked and have submitted their plans to enhance their performance under the School Improvement Programme (SIP), an ambitious and comprehensive initiative to challenge, motivate and support all schools in Malaysia to improve student outcomes. Liew said 114 school improvement partners and school improvement coaches have recently been identified and trained to help schools in the lower performance bands improve their performance.

As for rural basic infrastructure, 469 km of road have been completed, 1,664 houses built, 1,886 houses connected with electricity, and 6,576 houses connected with clean and treated water in both the Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak. The overall delivery target for housing remains at 16,626 by end 2010 and Liew said progress is according to schedule. Electricity supply to houses, meanwhile, exceeded its year-to-date delivery forecast by 475 houses. It is now ahead of the target by 5 percent.

The government's effort to reduce hardcore poverty in the country has also shown tremendous results. A total of 23,679 or 47 percent of 44,643 hardcore poor households have been removed from the category. Incidences of poverty are also being reduced in line with the set target. Year-to-date achievement as of August is 5,030 households, from 46,000 to 40,970, essentially a 23 percent drop against the year-to-date target. Also, as of August 2010, a total of 3,255 (or 322 percent) women entrepreneurs from low-income households out of the targeted 2,000 have been trained and they have significantly improved their take-home income.

Urban public transport, another GTP NKRA, also registered positive results. According to Liew, light rail transit (LRT) daily ridership has increased by an additional 2.4 million

passengers or 8.4 percent. Ridership for the Kelana Jaya LRT line during the morning peak hours increased by 11 percent for the first seven months of this year, when compared to the same period last year.

In another effort to make the usage of public transport more attractive and convenient to the public, RapidKL has also introduced the Bus Expressway Transit (BET) system which commenced operations early this year on January 12. The introduction of BET saw a reduction of travel time between destinations of up to 50 percent. BET is a system where buses travel on highways that are least used, connecting from the city to densely populated areas to reduce travel time by as much as 15 minutes. For example, a 90-minute journey would now require only 75 minutes. This initiative saw a 38 percent jump in bus ridership.

Meanwhile, the Bandar Tasik Selatan integrated transport terminal (ITT), an initiative to decongest Kuala Lumpur, will be commissioned in November 2010 and ITT Gombak will be completed and functional in August 2011. Also, Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTM) has ordered 38 trains of which six will be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The government's effort to fight corruption is also progressing well with several initiatives already in place. Among them: the Whistleblower Protection Act, the government MyProcurement portal and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) 'name-and-shame' database which is published on its website. To date, 3,680 government contract awards have been published online – an initiative to increase government transparency. A total of 520 arrests have been made and 178 have been convicted of various corruption charges.

And to continue the national agenda of transforming Malaysia to achieve Vision 2020, the government will be rolling out a private sector-led Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) in the fourth quarter of this year. "The ETP builds on the direction outlined in the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP) and the New Economic Model (NEM) to develop a different approach to delivering the government's economic objectives and outcomes," Liew

pointed out. "It targets to achieve gross national income (GNI) of close to RM1.7 trillion in 2020. The innovative approach in the ETP recognises that incremental improvements to the status quo will not be enough for Malaysia to become a high-income nation."

Malaysia will leverage its competitive advantages, by investing disproportionate amounts of public investment and policy support behind a limited number of key growth engines. The ETP focuses on the 12 National Key Economic Activities (NKEAs) announced in the 10MP. These NKEAs are expected to make substantial contributions to Malaysia's economic performance. The international experience demonstrates that strategic focus is an important element of rapid economic development, particularly for small and medium-sized countries. The ETP has been designed to shape Malaysia into a developed economy in which its private sector is the primary engine of productivity growth in the economy.