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Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his speech at the Asean@50 Commemorative Dinner and Achievements Awards last night, said if the country is going bankrupt, businesses will not be investing in Malaysia. Pix by Mohamad Shahril Badri Saali

By **Beatrice Nita Jay** - August 4, 2017 @ 10:37pm

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Gross National Income increased by nearly 50 per cent between 2009 and 2016, despite accusations from the opposition that the country is going bankrupt.

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his speech at the Asean@50 Commemorative Dinner and Achievements Awards last night, said if the country is going bankrupt, businesses will not be investing in Malaysia.

"Businesses would not be moving their regional headquarters here, if they thought that," he said while giving examples of companies like Huawei, a global ICT provider and Broadcom Ltd, the world's largest semiconductor company.

"Inflation and unemployment have been kept low, while 2.26 million jobs have been created.

"We have secured record levels of foreign direct investments, at a time when our opponents keep trying to scare people into thinking that Malaysia is going bankrupt," Najib said.

He then threw shades at former prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, saying that Malaysia is not interested in past issues.

"We are not interested in harping on old grievances, as one former leader still is.

"We wish to work with friends and partners, near and far. This has led to our relations and friendship with many nations reaching historic highs," said Najib.

He added that Asean must be an association that feels real, relevant and tangible to its citizens in order to realise its potential.

"We need to work on building that sense of cohesion, solidarity, support, unity, friendship and strength which will result in greater prosperity and harmony for all our countries."

Hosted by the Asean Business Advisory Council (Asean-BAC), the Asean@50 Achievement Awards was part of the activities in celebrating Asean's 50th anniversary this year.

Ten Malaysian companies and individuals who were a testament of the success and opportunities, were presented with achievements awards at the Asean@50 Commemorative Dinner held here, today.

Also present at the dinner were International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Asean-BAC chairman, Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid and Philippines Trade and Industry secretary, Ramon Lopez.