

# No single recipe for success

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**W**HILE good governance has been touted as an effective remedy against problems concerning development, there is no single recipe that can work for all countries.

Instead, Professor Dr K.S. Jomo believed that any strategy would work best if it was designed to fit the circumstances of individual countries.

The economist, who is also Khazanah Research Institute senior adviser, said instead of following a standard set of rules or policies made by other countries, Malaysia should select and choose the best methods, and arrange them in a way that would best suit this country and its people.

He cited the 1980's Washington Consensus, which Jomo said did not cater to all countries, especially developing and underdeveloped ones.

The consensus is a set of 10 economic policy prescriptions considered to constitute the "standard" reform package promoted for crisis-racked developing countries.

It was introduced by Washington D.C.-based institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the United States Treasury Department. However, even the US did not practise the consensus.

"Many countries are facing development challenges that are different from others and at various phases which require different approaches. Thus, forcing an underdeveloped country into adopting an advanced nation's characteristics could destroy the former's development. An effective administration is not equal to following only one good governance model," he said at the 4th Chancellor Tuanku Muhriz Lecture at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia here yesterday.

Present were Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir and Tunku Ampuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Aishah Rohani Almarhum Tengku Besar Mahmud.

The lecture was first held in 2016 as a platform for leaders and experts to share their expertise, visions and views on public matters, governance, integrity and the rule of law.

This year's lecture saw Jomo as a guest of honour, where he discussed the topic "What is the best governance for development?"

Good governance, he said, equalled a technocrat-led admin-



Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir (second from right) greeting Khazanah Research Institute senior adviser and economist Professor Dr K.S. Jomo at the 4th Chancellor Tuanku Muhriz Lecture at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Bangi yesterday. With them is UKM Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor (right). PIC BY NURUL SHAFINA JEMENDON




## SYARAHAN CANSELOR TUANKU MUHRIZ KE-4



**THE 4<sup>th</sup> CHANCELLOR  
TUANKU MUHRIZ LECTURE**

**2 Oktober 2019 (Rabu)  
Dewan Canselor Tun Abdul Razak**

dengan kerjasama  
**PROFESSOR  
ABERYSTWYTH**  
UNIVERSITY  
KELAB ALUMNI UNIVERSITI ABERYSTWYTH DI MALAYSIA  
Aberystwyth University Alumni Club of Malaysia

istration as technocrats were the best decision-makers.

Technocrats refer to decision-makers who are selected on the basis of their expertise in a given area of responsibility, particularly with regard to scientific or technical knowledge.

There is a perception that politicians and administrators are al-

ways chasing after their personal interest, which then sparks a dilemma — who will bring about reforms?

"The answer is, reform must be led by conscious technocrats outside of politics who are not selfish.

"Autonomy should be given to technocrats, those whose priorities are to the country and its

people," he said.

Good governance for development, he said, was closely related to cooperation between ministries.

Unfortunately, he said, there was a lack of cooperation between them, which hindered development for the country and its people.

Jomo cited an example of the Education Ministry's recent free breakfast programme for all schools, due to kick off next year.

He suggested that five other ministries also be involved in the initiative instead of the Education Ministry alone so that the food provided would be nutritional and cost-effective.

He said the Education Ministry should be involved in the programme's management, the Health Ministry in designing healthy meals, the Agriculture and Agribased Ministry in providing healthy and nutritional products, the Entrepreneur Development Ministry in managing farmers and consumers, the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry in managing the interests of children and family while the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry should be in charge of the price and the safety of the food.

On top of the programme, Jomo also proposed for lunch meals to be provided to students regardless of their backgrounds, and that the

meals must meet nutritional needs.

"Malaysians are facing obesity issues and it is becoming alarming. At the same time, we are turning a blind eye to this by not providing food with essential nutrients on a daily basis.

"Based on research, a number of Malaysians don't get enough nutrients, especially minerals and calcium, which promote growth at an early age."

Asked on the cost management aspect, Jomo cited the Johor government's cooperation with the Health Ministry on a pilot programme that provided lunch at schools.

He said the cost of the meals, which provide all nutritional elements, was RM2.40, compared with the Education Ministry's breakfast programme's RM3 meal.

"The problem is there is a lack of cooperation between ministries in holding beneficial programmes for the people. Thus they should improve the governance to achieve better results.

"On the cost aspect, we could shift our focus to improving national products instead of depending on imported ones and through this, we would be able to expand our agriculture industry aside from improving farmers' productivity and socio-economy," he said.