

Build world-class reputation, accountants urged

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has called on the Malaysian accountancy profession to build a unique "Malaysian accounting reputation" and brand that would reflect Malaysia positively as a world-class capital market.

He said that with the globalisation of the finance, capital and investment markets, the

competition for capital, technology, talents and markets could only intensify.

"A strong, credible, competent accounting profession can become a valuable partner in helping businesses and companies to plan, deploy and control resources needed to achieve their goals," he said here at a dinner of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in

England and Wales, Malaysia.

Similarly, Najib said, public-listed companies should strive to improve their corporate governance practices to meet world-class standards in corporate reporting, disclosure and communication.

"Only then will investors be willing to place significant premiums on such companies.

"High standards of financial

reporting, auditing and ethics underpin the trust investors place in the probity of financial and non-financial information," he said.

Najib said that in the last few years there had been greater scrutiny focused on the accounting profession, brought about by events like the collapse of Enron and Worldcom.

He said the clear lesson from

these excesses was that companies needed strong internal control systems to safeguard assets and ensure the reliability and transparency of financial records.

"These controls cannot prevent all fraud, but coupled with independent internal auditors, they can help reduce material abuses of corporate behaviour," he added.