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PM: Identify new fields to boost economy

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THE country's development planning process has evolved since the First Malaysia Plan was enacted in 1956, which was before the country achieved independence.

Since then, we have implemented nine five-year plans and two long-term plans. A lot of changes were made in terms of approach and content.

The planning strategy was also shifted. From a reliance on market forces, it moved towards the hybrid approach which combined market forces and planning.

Private interest was integrated with public vision to ensure society-based planning.

The main thrust was to fulfil society's aspirations in line with the national agenda to develop the country, and preserve and strengthen racial unity.

Through dialogue, which is the Government's normal practice, the national policy was determined and tailored to suit the requirements.

The Government has always practised an open policy and is willing to consider constructive ideas for the interest and prosperity of the people.

Indeed, using long-term plans to outline the path of the country's progress has ensured that development has not deviated from the original objective.