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Abdullah-Reforms

BN AND UMNO INITIATE SIGNIFICANT REFORMS FOR COUNTRY'S PROGRESS,  
SAYS  
PM

KEPALA BATAS, April 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri  
Abdullah

Ahmad Badawi said today that the Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno have  
initiated structured reforms which have a significant impact on the  
country's progress and prosperity.

Abdullah, who is BN chairman and acting Umno president, said  
that the  
reforms, whether in terms of mindset change or physical development,  
had  
been initiated after careful planning.

"Our reforms are initiated after careful and thorough planning,  
not  
through cries for reforms in the streets. They drive us in striving  
to  
achieve our objective in ensuring that the people are more  
progressive and  
to attain Vision 2020," he said when opening the Kepala Batas Umno  
division's Wisma Umno here.

The Prime Minister said that a planned development had been  
initiated  
right from the earlier leaders of the country like the late Tunku  
Abdul  
Rahman Alhaj, the nation's first prime minister who initiated a  
struggle to  
free the country from the shackles of colonialism.

Abdullah said that the prime minister who succeeded him, Tun  
Abdul  
Razak Hussein, had initiated the struggle to develop the country,  
followed  
by Tun Hussein Onn who promoted unity and racial integration while  
his  
predecessor, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, brought about modernisation to  
the  
country.

"They were dynamic leaders in the pursuit of their vision and  
their  
struggle and through their leadership Malaysia has been able to  
enjoy very  
rapid development," he said.

However, he said, the people would not be able to continue to  
enjoy all  
these if they fail to change their way of thinking, of doing things  
and to  
improve their level of competitiveness to be on par or better than  
of other

countries.

"We will definitely not be able to compete with the other countries if we work in a slow pace, substandard, lack knowledge and poor in quality," he said.

He called on the people to equip themselves with various knowledge and skills to face future challenges in attaining excellence, glory and distinction.

Abdullah, who is the Member of Parliament for Kepala Batas, said that the country cannot depend entirely on its natural resources like rubber, oil palm and other agricultural products.

He encouraged the people to be progressive in their thinking and to be more innovative to generate new sources of income that could benefit the people.

"We will be able to progress if the people are progressive in their thinking and as such, we need to increase the number of our scientists capable of designing various quality products for the consumers," he said.

Earlier, he said that after 25 years, the Kepala Batas Umno division was able to have its own building.

The Kepala Batas Umno division operated from a shophouse until it moved to the house belonging to Abdullah's grandfather, Abdullah Fahim.

Its new three-storey building, located on a 0.8-ha site in Bertam, is a landmark in Kepala Batas.

-- BERNAMA

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