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Abdullah-Manifesto

BN WANTS A STRONG MANDATE TO BECOME A NATION OF EXCELLENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) is seeking a strong mandate from the rakyat in the coming 11th general election to become a nation of excellence, glory and distinction in the

future, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"We want the rakyat to vote in the BN for the future of the nation," he

said when launching the BN manifesto themed "Towards a Malaysia of Excellence, Glory and Distinction" in the run-up to polling day fixed for

Sunday, at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He said that with its strength, solidness and influence, the BN had proven to be a party which truly represents the various races in the country.

"The party has vast experience through its struggle to develop the nation, to ensure its progress in all fields and the success of the people irrespective of race or religion," said Abdullah who is BN chairman and acting Umno president.

The manifesto covers various topics ranging from the economy to balanced development, education, religion, physical and spiritual development, law and public order, the public service and foreign policy.

Abdullah said that the BN has a greater capability based on its wide experience including in tackling various challenges and crises.

"All these give us strength to achieve what we aspire for so that Malaysia can attain excellence, glory and distinction," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, BN secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, leaders of the BN component parties as well as Abdullah's wife, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, and Najib's wife, Datuk Seri Rosmah Mansor, were present.

Abdullah said that the approaches adopted by the BN were people-friendly, taking into account the aspiration of the people who want a country which was peaceful, stable, prosperous and enjoying continuous development, creating various opportunities for the people to improve their

standard of living.

"We also assure the people that we will always protect their rights, uphold the supremacy of the constitution, and the sovereignty of the law," he said.

Abdullah said that to ensure a future of greater excellence, glory and distinction, measures that needed to be taken included the eradication of corruption and initiatives towards balanced development in the country so that the urban and rural areas could benefit from the country's development.

"We'll also adopt approaches to enhance the quality of public service provided by the government...we want the public service delivery system to be improved and upgraded," he said.

The BN would also continue to place emphasis on rural development and the agricultural sector to create sources of wealth and sources of additional income to benefit the rakyat, he said.

He gave an assurance to the private sector that incentives would continue to be granted so that it could play a more effective role as the engine of growth of the nation's economy.

Abdullah said that the BN was also hoping for a change of mindset among the people so that they would attain greater success and be more competitive and resilient in facing future challenges.

"Emphasis will be made on the need for the standard of education to be enhanced so that the younger generation will acquire greater capability, master knowledge, possess information, have the skills and high level of professionalism so that they will become a major contributor towards the nation's development," he said.

The involvement of women in development would also be greater, said Abdullah, who is leading the BN for the first time in a general election after succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 31 last year.

"The BN is a party which gives priority to the interest of the rakyat and fulfil the aspiration of the people to enjoy greater development," he said.

"We are stressing in our manifesto how crucial it is to be forward-looking," he said, calling on the rakyat to remain with the

BN to
pursue the nation's vision.

Some three million copies in seven versions -- bahasa Malaysia,
jawi,
English, Chinese, Tamil and for the Bumiputera in Sabah and Sarawak,
in
Kadazan and Iban language -- have been printed.

The BN is contesting all the 205 parliamentary seats and 497
state
seats still up for grabs after nominations yesterday.

The coalition of 14 component parties already won 14
parliamentary
seats and seven state seats unopposed. PAS also won a state seat in
Johor
unopposed.

A total of 10.28 million Malaysian are eligible to cast their
votes on
polling day on Sunday.

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