

02 MAR 2004

Abdullah-Vision

ENHANCE RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS TO REALISE VISION 2020,
PEOPLE
URGED

PETALING JAYA, March 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah

Ahmad Badawi tonight urged the people to enhance their resilience and competitiveness in helping the country to realise Vision 2020.

"Don't reject challenges because we have no confidence in ourselves to stand tall like other people who have undergone the process of development long before us," he said at the Malaysia Book of Records reception here.

He said that as a people of a free and sovereign nation, they should discard such lack of self confidence, a major obstacle to progress and development.

"Don't be shy to take a step forward and don't despise those striving for success," he said.

During the function, Abdullah also launched the golden edition of the Malaysia Book of Records, published as a token of appreciation to the country's fourth prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said in an increasingly competitive world, the people should be committed and possessed the will of steel to successfully manage the country.

On the Malaysia Book of Records, he hoped more Malaysians would make it into the book in future to show the world that they were not "jaguh kampung".

However, he said that in the quest they should not choose a feat not worth their while such as a world eating record while running.

"Isn't it better if such effort and energy is channelled into a more meaningful feat such as the fastest runner in the world," he said.

He said it was human nature to want to be the best at something and to receive recognition for it but this should not lead to indiscriminately choosing the categories in which one aimed to excel.

He said Malaysians should be judicious in choosing their

challenges as
their endeavours should seek to raise the bar of achievement and
push the
envelope of excellence.

"Our efforts should truly test the limit of our strength,
endurance,
creativity and ingenuity. We should be motivated to cover new
grounds, to
explore new vistas and to scale new peaks," he said.

He said a cursory glance at the list of world records would
reveal a
multitude of areas that Malaysia had yet to conquer.

"We rarely become a champion outside the comfort zone of home
and this
is a limitation that we should strive to change," he said.

Abdullah said the phrase "Malaysia Boleh" had worked wonders in
shaping
the people's mentality and instilling the belief that it was
possible for
Malaysians to accomplish great things and it would therefore be a
shame if
they turned the slogan into an empty one, tarnished by frivolous and
meaningless pursuits.

Meanwhile, he also expressed appreciation to Dr Mahathir as a
statesman
who had contributed almost his entire life to the country.

"He has sacrificed his time and energy to reshape the mentality
of the
Malaysians into a race of people who fear no challenges and ever
striving
for excellence," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysia had leap-frogged from an obscure country
to a
respected world member due to efforts of Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA
SR MFJ ABG