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Pak Lah's turn to help keep nation peaceful, prosperous

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I CONGRATULATE Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on his appointment as the country's fifth Prime Minister. He has gone through many phases in his political career and has survived. In many ways, Pak Lah has demonstrated that patience, unselfishness and perseverance will prevail. These are among the leadership characteristics that must have been considered by Tun Dr Mahathir when he chose his successor.

We must face the realities of what Dr Mahathir Mohamad has listed as his failures with regard to changing the Malays. The main point is the attitude of looking for short cuts to enrichment. We must change this attitude, and we need Pak Lah's leadership to do it.

Money politics, the wrong people in certain positions and corruption all stem from the fact that Malays want short cuts and most are selfish acts without due consideration for the welfare of the country or race.

It would be too idealistic to hope that all this will vanish overnight, but we must try to minimise them.

We want a nation built by leaders with traits that will help in our effort to make the country peaceful and prosperous. Dr Mahathir has laid the platform and it is now Pak Lah's turn.

These are only a few of the challenges Pak Lah will face. We are lucky he is a man with the right character and we as a nation should also be thankful for that. He is the right man at the right time.

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