

An apt theme for this year's N-Day, says Tun

SELF-RELIANCE, THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Saturday.

TUN Abdul Razak stressed tonight the need for self-reliance to ensure a better future for the nation and the people.

It is only through self-reliance that we can guide our nation to a higher and wider level of success," he said in a nation-wide address over radio and TV on the eve of National Day.

As such, this year's National Day theme — "Towards a self-reliant society" — was most appropriate, Tun Razak said.

During his 30-minute address, the Prime Minister also spoke on the nation's security and economic situation, foreign relations and the drug menace.

Tun Razak said the Government was able to reduce the effects of inflation with the successful implementation of the Green Book Plan.

But because of world economic recession, especially in developed countries, exports of our manufactured goods had dropped.

He said exports of raw materials this year had also fallen.

He said because of this depressing situation he had ordered all government departments to be thrifty and cut down on unnecessary expenditure.

Tun Razak said it was important that, in times like this the people, especially government officers, show their loyalty to the Government and the country.

They should also be understanding and co-operate with the Government to overcome these economic difficulties.

He said the Government did not begrudge claims by its officers for more pay, especially from those in the lower income group.

But the claims must be in line with increased productivity, he added.

Tun Razak said that the success of a nation hinged on the effort of each and every citizen.

In times of difficulty the people should contribute what they could to the nation and not think only of how they could benefit from the situation.