

# 'Human capital essential to stay competitive'

• **By Wan Hamidi Hamid**  
*news@nst.com.my*

KUALA LUMPUR: Developing and harnessing human capital will be the Government's main focus in making Malaysia a developed nation by 2020, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister said the Government would focus on efforts to develop and capitalise on the country's human capital potential.

"In his Workers' Day message, Abdullah said human capital was

the most important element in ensuring a country's competitiveness and resilience.

He said developing human capital with "first-class mentality" should be the priority if the country wished to move towards a knowledge-economy and become a developed nation with its own identity and the resilience to maintain it.

"In today's globalised world, quality human capital is a necessity and no longer a luxury," he said.

The Government needed the

people's co-operation and support to ensure the success of strategies and plans to develop the nation's human capital, he added.

"The people should equip themselves with knowledge and skills, life-long education must be our culture.

"This is important so that the nation's human capital always acquires the latest knowledge and skills, and is backed by values to ensure a dynamic workforce that appreciates high-performance work culture," he said.

The Prime Minister said quality education and skills training would ensure the human capital remained relevant to market needs.

It should be strong to face increasing challenges and international competitiveness, Abdullah added.

The Government, he said, appreciated the support and co-operation among employers and workers, and such relations should be strengthened to maintain harmonious ties.