

PM: Retain spirit of consensus, co-operation

KUALALUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahhdi Badawi has called on multiracial Malaysians to retain the spirit of consensus and co-operation, which has become the pillar of national strength since independence.

He said the country's development today was the result of unity that had long been forged among the people of various races and religions. "the solidarity of Malaysians is our strength, We heed to ensure that we maintain that strength.

"A good consensus, a strong and effective co-operation, these are important," he said in a special message aired by radio and television in conjunction with the nation's 49th Merdeka Day celebration.

The Prime Minister said that in instilling and safeguarding unity, each Malaysian must have patience, be considerate, give priority to collaboration and respect each other.

Referring to the May 13, 1969 incident, Abdullah reminded Malaysians to learn from the dark moments in the country's history, and avoid doing something that

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could disrupt unity and racial collaboration.

Things that caused consensus to crumble would erode the country's strength and make it weak, he said.

"What causes hardship to us, we must avoid, that's the meaning of learning from history. Besides, we also need to chart our history by building a civilisation that we can be proud of."

Abdullah added that the present generation, who enjoyed the fruits of the struggle of past generations, had the obligation to make Malaysia a more developed and

successful country, for the next generation.

"Or, at least, to ensure that the country has a Government with well-organised plans... so that we can progress further."

The Prime Minister said attention must be given to the struggle towards achieving Vision 2020, when Malaysia would hopefully be declared a developed nation.

He stressed that the people should strive wholeheartedly to face various new challenges, like globalisation, liberalisation and competition from other countries which aimed to capture the market.

"In competition, can we succeed or not? In the effort, will we get as much as what we want? These should be the questions for us, and we must have the best answers and responses.

"So with this, it's my hope that the people and the Government will continue to co-operate, and the two parties will put their minds and efforts towards realising it," Abdullah said.

The Prime Minister also reminded the public sector of its crucial role in the country's development, even though the private

sector had been given the role to generate a more robust economic development.

"The public sector has the power to enforce laws and rules, and the capacity to draft the necessary policies. So, its role cannot be separated, and cannot be considered less important," he said.

Hence, he stressed that the public sector must strive to facilitate any initiatives taken by the private sector, which would bring benefits and prosperity to the country.

Touching on the independence day celebration, Abdullah said it should be celebrated with pride by all citizens, and with gratitude and happiness for the peace and progress enjoyed.

After 49 years of independence, the Prime Minister said, Malaysia had developed robustly and achieved successes in various fields, including the economy, infrastructure and education.

"Surely, we should be grateful because in these 49 years, we can say that our country is peaceful and safe for Malaysians," he said.

—Bernama