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**'Malaysian Way'
has served
us well, says PM**

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's transformation into a prosperous nation is the result of a deliberate approach to development based on four principles.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday the four principles, which he dubbed *the Malaysian Way*, were:

- » political stability,
 - » pragmatic policy-making,
 - » focus on capacity building, and,
 - » coordinated execution,
- which has steered the country through storms and troubles since 1957.

"Over the last 50 years, *'the Malaysian Way'* has served us well. We have come up from very uncertain beginnings, and we are now marching towards a more promising future," he said in his keynote address at a seminar on *Malaysia's Development Since Independence and the Nation's Aspirations*.

Abdullah said that despite the achievements in half a century, it cannot rest on its laurels as there are dark clouds gathering ahead, as globalisation forces nations to become more competitive.

To face these new chal-

lenges, a new strategy in the form of the National Mission was proposed last year.

"The National Mission, with its five key thrusts, serves as a comprehensive framework for the 9th, 10th and 11th Malaysia Plans, towards Vision 2020," he said.

He urged the private sector to be an active partner in catalysing the development process of Malaysia.

He said this was the crux of the government's recent push for growth corridors at the Iskandar Development Region (IDR) in south Johor, the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) and the East Coast Economic Region, as well as similar corridors in Sabah and Sarawak.

While the government will continue to play its role as facilitator and enabler of economic growth, Abdullah said, the private sector should play its role in investing in both soft and hard infrastructure to boost economic growth in the regions.

He said in both the IDR and NCER growth corridors and the private finance initiative, the aim has been to transform the government-private sector ties and playing to their respective strengths as partners in the development process.