

# 'We're ready to face challenges'

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## PM: 9MP to add value to economy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Government will continue with efforts to move the economy up the value chain to enable it to overcome challenges posed by globalisation, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister said this was at the core of the Ninth Malaysia Plan that also outlined programmes to add value to the economy, especially in the services and manufacturing sectors.

"The government is also striving to enhance the country's involvement in high technology sectors, including the information communication technology and biotechnology.

"Efforts to transform government-linked companies are also bearing results," he said in his speech at the investiture ceremony in conjunction with the Yang diPertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin's birthday at the Istana Negara.

Abdullah said the country's economy was also doing well, recording 5.9% growth last year.

The economic expansion, he said, was helmed by the private sector.

The Government is also taking steps to enhance the country's fiscal position with the budget deficit already reduced to 3.5% and international reserves standing at RM290.4bil as at end 2006.

Inflation and unemployment are also under control.

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

struction," he said.

The Prime Minister said that continuous efforts would be made to develop the bumiputra community to narrow the gap in terms of income, assets and wealth.

On the move to create various development corridors like the Iskandar Development Region in southern Johor, he said it would bring about greater development in the areas concerned for the benefit of all the people.

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