

Beyond 2020

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Abdullah
envisions a
high-achieving
nation by 2057

KUALA LUMPUR: To see the nation achieve the unimaginable. This is the Malaysia Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi envisages for 2057.

"When I came into office I committed myself to Vision 2020 and I still hold myself to that pledge.

"But the more I think about 50 years of Merdeka, the more I start

dreaming about what might be in another 50 years," the prime minister said in his speech at the Kuala Lumpur Business Club Dinner last night.

Abdullah said if Vision 2020 was about the foundation of a developed nation, 2057 would be about what it takes "to distinguish ourselves in all

fields and the heights to which Malaysians will scale."

"A hundred years of Merdeka would see this society, this nation achieve the unimaginable. We will have Nobel laureates, truly global corporations, respected and market-leading brands, internationally

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Power sharing system to continue, says Pak Lah

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acclaimed poets and artists, among the largest number of scientific patents in the world and even the best football team in Asia.

"Our students and professors will dominate Ivy League universities and our own universities will be citadels of excellence for international scholars.

"We will be pioneers in alternative energy, drawing on our strength in biofuels. Our cities will be the most liveable on the globe, blending cosmopolitan facilities that are rooted in a tolerant and just societal ethos.

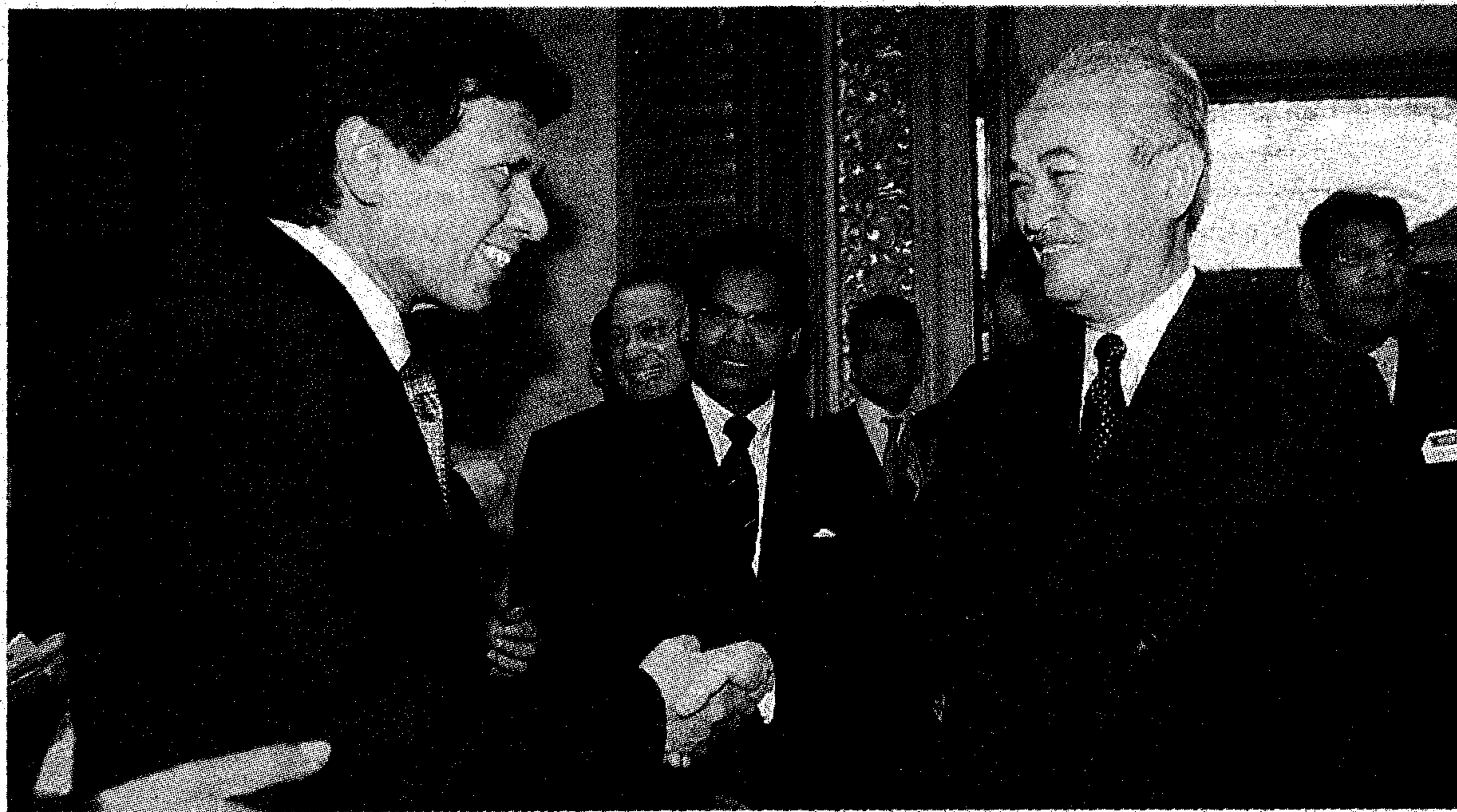
"This is the Malaysia in my dreams for 2057. One hundred years of independence, one hundred years of advancement," he added.

The Prime Minister also said that politically, the power-sharing system would continue to be the best of all possible worlds, given the country's historical legacy.

"However, the emphasis must shift from co-existence to genuine cohesion. There must be more multi-ethnic Malaysian communities, businesses, schools and organisations.

"There must be a more multi-ethnic Malaysian outlook."

Abdullah said although the Government had played a leading role in changing the country's eco-



Warm reception: Abdullah being greeted by Naza Group chairman and CEO Tan Sri S.M. Nasimuddin S.M. Amin at the KL Business Club dinner in Kuala Lumpur last night. Behind the Prime Minister is business club president and MAS chairman Datuk Dr Munir Majid (right).

nomic structure not only in terms of policy but also through investments, the private sector had to claim its rightful position as the main player.

"Having a thriving private sector, driven by commercial principles, will ensure that our economy creates value and remains competitive."

He said that Malaysian businesses were beginning to specialise, to focus on the products and services and also going abroad to compete with the rest of the world.

"I see changes in the soul of Malaysian businesses. As more and more Malaysian businesses enter the glob-

al stage, the sense of a unique Malaysian personality will emerge.

"Malaysian businesses are increasingly known for being fair partners, for adapting well to other cultures, for giving back to society."

■ Full text of speech online