

'Create technology, don't just be a user'

NST - 25/2/2007

■ **By V. Vasudevan**
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Come out and show the world you can do it.

The call was made to the scientific fraternity by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as he unveiled a made-in-Malaysia microchip containing information that can be read by radio signals.

He said local researchers, scientists and engineers should demonstrate to the world that Malaysians have the ability to develop leading-edge applications and solutions based on advanced technology.

"I have said this many times.

"We must create our own technology and not just become efficient users," he said at the launching of the Malaysia Microchip Project here yesterday.

Abdullah said that only by being a creator of technology could Malaysia move up the economic value chain and take its place among the developed nations.

"It is my hope that the challenge

will be met, so that the project's chip-based applications and solutions will be adopted not just by the public and private sector in Malaysia but around the world."

Abdullah hoped the MM chip-based application and solutions will not only be used in the country but also find a place in the global market.

Abdullah, who is the MM Chip Project committee chairman, said the government had a structured plan to commercialise the chip and expressed confidence of its success.

The MM Chip Project employs radio frequency identification (RFID) technology.

Begun in 2004 with Japanese technology, the chip has since been developed with Malaysian research to incorporate a built-in antenna receptive to three bands of radio frequency.

Currently, it is being used in the B-certificate or authentication sticker on VCDs and DVDs cleared by the Censorship Board.

The government had, Abdullah said, through the Malaysian Indus-

try-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), created a wholly-owned company — Senstech Sdn Bhd — to spearhead the development of applications for commercialisation purposes.

Home Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said the chip had huge potential.

"It is the first chip in the world which can be used in paper and we are looking at using it in birth certificates, marriage certificates, passports and other documents where forgery is a problem."

He said it could also be used in bank notes and tests have shown it could be used to replace barcodes for products.

He said all that was needed was the chip and a reader.

"We want government agencies to use this first — our own microchip with the latest technology — before we go abroad."

Radzi, who co-chairs the committee with Abdullah, said the government had spent more than US\$50 million (RM175 million) on the project.