

'Economic growth hinges on co-operation'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said co-operation between employers and workers unions in maintaining a harmonious industrial environment could boost stability and economic growth.

The prime minister said such co-operation could also attract more investments to Malaysia.

The commitment and joint effort of every Malaysian worker were necessary to ensure harmony in society and success in nation building to achieve the National Mission, he said.

"The country's aspiration to become a developed nation needs

the commitment of every level of society, including workers, to constantly work hard and equip themselves with the characteristics and attitudes of a society with first-class mentality," he said in his message in conjunction with Workers Day today.

Abdullah said in this challenging era of globalisation, Malaysia needed a productive, knowledgeable, capable and more competitive workforce to ensure that it achieved progress and a more sustainable socio-economic development.

"The government has chosen the theme, 'Productive Workers,

Competitive Nation' for this year's Workers Day celebration because it is in keeping with the important role of every worker to work with the government in efforts to develop the country," Abdullah said.

He also expressed hope that every worker and employer would observe this year's theme because it could be the premise for work to be done diligently to optimise productivity.

He said the country's ability to compete in an increasingly challenging global market hinged on the quality and productivity of its workers.

"The country needs trained and skilled workers in various fields and the need is escalating in line with the trend towards a knowledge-economy."

He said a skilled workforce must have an identity imbued with honesty, trustworthiness and vision to enhance work quality.

"The emphasis of the Ninth Malaysia Plan on human capital development, especially a knowledgeable and competitive workforce, is timely because Malaysia cannot continue to depend on cheap labour," he said. — Bernama