

PM: National mission to achieve excellence

NST-19/4/2017.

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Mission, which plots the road ahead for the country for the next 50 years, is high on the prime minister's list of priorities.

With aims to achieve an "excellent, glorious and distinctive" nation, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is stressing on the importance of human capital, value-adding and knowledge enrichment.

All this, he said, would be key steps in working towards a developed country.

"The National Mission is a very dynamic mission which is continuous and constantly changing.

"To achieve this, we need to harness knowledge and develop human capital, while making sure we value-add on to these aspects," he said at an Umno information machinery gathering at the Putra World Trade Centre on Friday. The speech was aired on RTM1 yesterday.

"I have not forgotten about Vision 2020. It is a target for us to achieve. But why can't we think beyond that? There are only 13 years left (to Vision 2020). It is time we thought ahead.

"This is the 50th year of our independence. We should plan for the next 50 years to achieve our century goals.

"I believe we are well placed to envision a century of success," he said.

The time had come, he said, to embark on building new platforms of development and success — challenging Malaysians to look at different horizons.

He said the Malaysia Plans acted as targets for five-year periods, likening them to "steps" leading up to the platforms.

He added that Malaysia had to continuously improve to meet global benchmarks which became higher everyday.

Abdullah then went personal for a while, saying that he had a lot of problems to deal with.

However, he said the important

thing to focus on was if he had added value to his administration and the government.

"If I have, then *Alhamdulillah*, as this is the aim of all leaders who take over the running of the country."

Abdullah said it could not be said that the country's trade performance, reserves and currency had depreciated during his tenure.

"In fact, all these things have gone up," he added.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Abdullah said there was still a lot of work to be done.

"All those rumours that I am going to resign in July, who is saying this? Some have said I am a one-term prime minister. We will see about that.

"Not that I want to lead for a long time — pity Najib who is waiting," he said, in jest, referring to his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Urging the rakyat to strive for improvement, Abdullah reminded them not to be cynical.

He called on the people to be positive and support the government's initiatives to improve the country.

Stressing especially on the Malays, he called on them to work hard to improve their lot.

Historically, he said the Malay race was now at the pinnacle of its glory compared to before.

He also stressed on unity among Malays, calling on them not to factor in the different origins such as Javanese, Acehnese and Minangkabau.

"These differences have led to fighting in the past and we must overcome this weakness.

"We should also learn from the past and remember one thing — to uphold the love for Umno and continue to unite in the name of race, religion and country."

Abdullah said it was also necessary to be fair and just when it came to the non-Bumiputeras.

"We cannot be seen as unfair, as we will lose all credibility and our leadership will be tarnished," he added.