

# Work hard and build on success, urges Abdullah

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The younger generation must build on the nation's successes in 2007, which marks the country's 50th anniversary of independence.

In his New Year message, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said there was a need to build on past efforts with greater determination.

"We must utilise the opportunities and facilities which are far better than what we have had," he said in his message broadcast over RTM last night.

He said the capability of the people today was far greater than the previous generation because the younger generation was in possession of ample knowledge.

"They have among them professionals, experts and researchers in various disciplines, all of whom are contributing to national development.

"There are more people today who are more knowledgeable,

particularly in science and technology."

Abdullah said in striving to enhance national development with the knowledge they had, the people had to understand the factors that contributed to the nation's strength to continue to enjoy peace and progress.

"We have to remember that inter-racial solidarity, goodwill, tolerance and consensus are very important. We have to be thankful to those who had worked hard to develop our country."

More importantly, the new generation had to understand and learn the methods deployed by past leaders and before applying them, strive to improve the approach by taking into account the current challenges, he said.

Abdullah said leaders of the past always worked together with community leaders, and Barisan Nasional leaders who represented the major political parties of the

country always gave preference to the people and country in every action they took.

"Such consensus and co-operation are woven into what has come to be known as power sharing, which has made our country a nation well-respected by many."

He said the people must be mindful of the competition from other countries, as well as globalisation and liberalisation which demanded that they work hard to enhance their ability and capability to compete.

"Our ability and capability must come from mental, physical and spiritual strength. We have to acquire knowledge in various disciplines that can be beneficial to us."

This includes knowledge in science and technology as well as new knowledge that drives economic growth, such as information and communications technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Abdullah also spoke about the Ninth Malaysia Plan, saying that although the government had determined the framework, programmes and projects, it did not mean that the people could not add on projects that could bring about huge success.

"They can carry out projects that can bring success but it is important that they understand all the programmes must adhere to the National Mission that we have set."

Abdullah also reminded the people to be always thankful for the blessings of God.

"Muslims understand that if we are thankful for God's blessings, He will shower us with more blessings. Most importantly, we must put in effort. All Malaysians have to strive for a glorious future.

"Ours is a future of progress and success ... only we can determine such a future," he said. — Bernama