

Build on nation's successes

Utilise all opportunities and facilities, Abdullah urges Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has called on Malaysians to build on the nation's successes in 2007, which coincides with the country's 50th anniversary of independence.

He also urged the people of the various communities to consolidate solidarity to amass collective strength in the pursuit of greater national progress.

"We have to strive to build on our efforts with greater determination, by utilising all the opportunities and facilities which are far better than what we have had, especially at the time when we just achieved our independence," he said in his New Year message.

Abdullah said the capability of Malaysians today was far greater than that of the previous generation because the younger generation was in possession of ample knowledge.

"In fact, there are more people today who have much knowledge, particularly in science and technology,

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PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

and the know-how associated with various professions. This only goes to show that our capability today is far greater than what we had," he added.

Abdullah said that while striving to enhance national development with the knowledge they had, the people had to understand also the factors that contributed to the

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nation's strength, peace and progress over the last 50 years.

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

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

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," he said.

"Most importantly, we must put in our 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, with the strength that we build together."

Malaysians must continue to stay united "to build a nation," said Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

"This must not be a nation polarised by our biological differences. Views and public discourses must not stay skin deep. As a successful nation, we must not leave anyone or any group behind in our quest for development," he said in his New Year message.

He said Malaysians should revisit, revitalise, re-enhance and realise the spirit and ideals of Bangsa Malaysia as a model of unity in diversity.

"Malaysia is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a nation in 2007. As a multi-racial society, we are also celebrating 50 years of our nation-building journey, facing and overcoming great challenges and forging unique friendships and partnerships," he added.

Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang urged the people to make a New Year resolution to stand up for fair, just and progressive nation-building policies to create towering Malaysians.

He said that the half-century of nationhood should be celebrated in a meaningful manner to instil greater national solidarity and sense of purpose in the nation's journey to achieve a Bangsa Malaysia and be a fully developed nation.

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