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PM: With positive traits, you can change the future

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PUTRAJAYA: "Make yourself a better person and be good in everything you do.

"With all the positive traits in you, you can change the future and make a difference," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told 1,200 participants at the closing of the National Integrity Convention here yesterday.

"Please remember this. As leaders of our families, government or associations, we should have all the good values in us so that we can show leadership by example.

"I, myself, try to change for the better."

Abdullah said he decided not to touch on corruption or public service delivery in his speech, subjects which he had spoken about many times.

"Let me remind you of the need to assess ourselves.

"So, before all of you go back, let us make a resolution to improve integrity in ourselves for a stronger nation.

"We must always assess and ask ourselves where we have gone wrong, admit our weaknesses, whether what we have done is against the law or our custom, why we tell lies and are not bold

enough to admit mistakes."

Also present at the conference were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Hassan, who is also National Integrity Institute chairman, the institute's director-general Datuk Dr Mohd Tap Nordin, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan, ministers, menteris besar, senior police officers and heads of departments.

Abdullah said integrity, which was part of the effort to develop the country's human capital, would enable all Malaysians to face challenges and competition.

"Human capital development cannot be separated from the overall integrity programmes being carried out by the government."

He said the government would continue to introduce systems, procedures and new legislation to deter offences or malpractices.

"We will continue to conduct courses or make amendments to the laws if need be, with the intention and objective that all this can make us better, honest and trusted people."

Sidek said the convention, held for the first time since the launching of the National Integrity Plan in 2004 by the

prime minister, would serve as an action programme to rid the public and private sectors of corruption and other negative practices.

He said a study on integrity is being carried out throughout the country with the involvement of thousands of respondents.

"This study will not be just cosmetic, but one that will enable the government to draw up activities to enhance integrity in all Malaysians," he said.

Earlier, Senator Tan Sri Jins Shamsuddin read out the resolutions adopted in the conference, which among others, called for the Anti-Corruption Agency to be made an independent body.

Conference participants were also unanimous in their support for a witness protection act and intensified integrity campaigns in the electronic and print media.

They also called on civil servants to "walk the talk" and enhance the public service delivery system.

During the ceremony, Abdullah witnessed the signing of three memoranda of understanding between the institute and the police, Mimos Bhd and the Malaysian Management Institute.