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Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Abdullah: It's a vote for peace and prosperity

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■ By V. Vasudevan
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Security, peace and prosperity.

That is what the Barisan Nasional is offering Malaysians in the next five years.

BN chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi outlined the coalition's programme in a 24-page manifesto, launched yesterday at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Unlike previous BN manifestos, the document outlined the progress Malaysia had achieved under the Barisan Nasional since its last mandate in 2004.

These include sustainable broad-based growth, narrowing income gaps and reducing hard-core poverty.

Others include enhancing ac-

cess to education such as providing funds for free textbooks, making the police more dynamic and moving the delivery system towards world-class levels, such as getting passports issued within three hours at major immigration department branches.

Also mentioned were measures to create first-class institutions and to demonstrate strong Malaysian leadership through groupings like the Non-Aligned Movement and Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

For the next five years, the manifesto emphasises programmes in eight areas — the economy, balanced development, education, law and order, public services, reducing corruption and improving governance, religion and unity and foreign policy.

Abdullah said no obstacle was

big enough for the BN, which would overcome all challenges for the good of the people and country.

He said the BN was unlike the opposition, which was not only divided but made unrealistic promises in its quest to win the election.

"The basis of our struggle is our commitment, which cannot be defeated by challenges. It has worked for 50 years.

"We will face the future with greater commitment," Abdullah said.

The BN also launched the website for the polls, www.bn2008.org.my yesterday.

Abdullah said the BN did not make empty promises like the opposition.

"We are not irresponsible and do not make promises which are

unrealistic."

Abdullah described the opposition as an alliance of convenience.

He said the opposition could not even agree among themselves on a common manifesto and had launched separate programmes.

"They are desperate. Pas with its manifesto and DAP with its own.

"The BN manifesto is the work of all the component party leaders after careful thought, co-operation and agreement."

He said the BN would continue to bring progress and development to the country, as it had always done.

"The BN wants to continue working with the people. We will work for what the people want.

"With another mandate, the BN can continue to strive for excellence."