

DATE: 01/05/2008

# PM's formula for success

NST- 1/5/2008

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The road towards achieving developed nation status requires an industrious and dedicated workforce with first class mentality, the prime minister said yesterday.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in order to successfully achieve the country's national agenda, Malaysia's workforce must also ensure it constantly kept abreast of changes.

Besides being committed to acquiring more knowledge, he called on them to sharpen their skills.

"This will help them become innovative and creative in efforts to develop the country," Abdullah said in his message in conjunction with Workers' Day today.

The prime minister said the national mission would only be a success if there was strong commit-

ment and a collective effort by the country's workforce to realise its aims and objectives.

"The workforce must always be prepared to work hard and to equip itself with the traits and attitude of a society with first-class mentality."

Abdullah reminded the people that the capability to disseminate and apply knowledge were important factors in maintaining healthy productivity and competitiveness.

He said the role that must be played by the Malaysian workforce was best reflected in the theme for this year's Workers' Day, "Innovative Workers, Competitive Nation".

"We can only achieve this objective if the people continue to strive with determination and commitment to turn Malaysia into a pros-

perous, progressive, fair, resilient and competitive nation."

Abdullah said once this was achieved, it would go a long way in ensuring racial harmony and the success of the national development agenda.

The prime minister said the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) emphasised human capital development, especially a knowledgeable and competitive workforce.

This was timely as Malaysia could not afford to continue to depend on a cheap labour force.

Abdullah said the government was aware that innovation transcended various factors, not only in the fields of science and technology.

He said innovation encompasses various aspects of socio-economy, administration and management as well as various aspects of hu-

man life.

"Innovation will lead to an improvement in the quality of life through change, improvement in the quality of products and services as well as an increase in the choice of products and services available to consumers."

Abdullah thanked all workers, unions and employers for their commitment and co-operation with the government in ensuring the success of national development programmes and policies.

"The government also appreciates the co-operation between employers and the workers' unions in preserving a harmonious industrial relations environment."

He said this healthy relationship would help boost stability and economic progress further and attract more foreign investments.