

THE STAR

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'BN has achieved its targets'

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Abdullah: We understand the needs of the people

PETALING JAYA: Four years after Barisan Nasional was given the mandate to govern, the ruling coalition has achieved its targets in delivering its promises to the people.

Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the country's economy grew by 6.3% in 2007, the best performance since 2004, while its fiscal deficit was brought down to 3.2% of gross domestic product.

He said the country's international trade crossed the RM1.3 trillion mark, some 1.3 million jobs were

created, the stock market hit historic highs and five strategic corridor developments were launched.

In addition, he said Barisan had brought down poverty rates significantly, closed the urban-rural gap and ensured a good quality of life for the people, particularly the lower income group.

Abdullah said changes were also made in many areas including the introduction of the National Mission

to focus on efforts to achieve Vision 2020 and beyond.

He said Barisan had ensured that education remained a key priority and made strides in making institutions namely civil service, the police forces and Government-linked companies more robust as well.

"What should be noted is that we hit these targets during challenging times, with global oil and food prices at record levels," Abdullah said in his

letter to Malaysians in the Barisan's progress report and manifesto.

He assured everyone that Barisan was committed to continue its fight against corruption and crime.

He said Barisan was ready to anticipate, pre-empt and take measures to safeguard the well-being of the people from all challenges, including rising oil prices and other significant international

events.

"This confidence is born out of the fact that the Barisan I lead is tried and tested. We understand the needs of the people and have delivered on our promises over the years."

He said Barisan also knew how to take the nation forward and make it glorious.

"We need your support on March 8. Only by working together can we make Malaysia more secure, peaceful and prosperous for present and future generations," he added.