

# Abdullah unveils BN manifesto for Penang

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**PERMATANG PAUH:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday launched the Barisan Nasional manifesto for Penang, which echoes the national BN theme of Security, Peace and Prosperity.

Abdullah said the manifesto is important not only for Penangites but is also a commitment of the BN government to investors including the other three northern states of Perlis, Kedah and southern Perak which are part of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

The manifesto also outlines the achievements of the BN government in Penang including projects which have been launched and carried out.

"This manifesto reflects the BN government's ability to implement what we have promised to the people. It also shows the commitment of the respective BN component parties who have worked together in the state government in the same spirit of consultation," he said.

"Equally important is the ability for those with experience within the state government combined with the energy of the younger leaders to ensure the success of these projects," Abdullah added.

Present was outgoing Chief Minister and Penang BN chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and representatives from the various BN component parties.

Koh said over the past four years, Penangites have worked with the BN state government to ensure steady economic progress, good income, full employment and improved quality of life.

"Since 2004, we have witnessed the launching of the NCER, MSC Penang Cyber City 1 in Bayan Baru-Bayan Lepas, RapidPenang bus services, Butterworth Outer Ring Road, Jelutong Expressway Phase II, Bayan Lepas elevated highway, Tanjung City Marina, Wawasan Open University, Juru Autocity, Queensbay Mall and other projects.

"The industrial sector and

services have continued to grow, offering better jobs for more people.

"In addition, Penang has been honoured as one of the Top 10 Most Liveable Cities in Asia out of a total 254 cities surveyed. Penang is also the premier destination for medical tourism and the Malaysia My Second Home programme," Koh added.

He outlined the five main thrusts of the manifesto which are:

- » peaceful and quality living environment for all;
- » safety for all, all for safety;
- » continued economic progress and prosperity for all;
- » first class infrastructure for Penang as the hub of the NCER and IMT-GT; and
- » improving delivery and driving integrity.

Koh said the Penang BN government has over the past four years laid the groundwork towards achieving security, peace and prosperity.

He said the state's main objectives for the next five years would be to:

- » work with the authorities and the police to make streets, homes and life much safer;
- » continue to promote the spirit of *muhibbah* and *satu hati* among the people in order to ensure peace and stability; and
- » continue to drive Penang's economy towards higher value-added industries, higher technology and higher income.

"We have done well for a small state with a land area of only 1,050 sq km and a population of 1.5 million people.

"Imagine what Penang can achieve as a centre of progress for the NCER - an area 32 times bigger, encompassing four states with four times the population and also as the hub for the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle," he said.