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# It's all about changing, surely for the better

IN all, there have been 15 plans charting Malaysia's development. There were two Malaya Plans, nine Malaysia Plans, three Outline Perspective Plans as well as a national mission.

Each had catered to the needs of the times then.

The nine Malaysia Plans since independence, for example, consisted of the government's development policies for the economic and social sectors.

The First Malaysia Plan (1966-1970) was to promote the welfare of all citizens and improve living conditions in rural areas, particularly among low-income groups.

The 2MP (1971-1975) was aimed at "restructuring" society, especially tackling the poverty problem among Malays.

The 3MP (1976-1980) continued the development efforts, in line with the New Economic Policy (NEP) policy and Rukun Negara of its predecessor.

The 4MP (1981-1985), the first under former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's administration, further elaborated and refined policy measures embodied in the Second and Third Malaysia Plans.



The 5MP (1986-1990) was an overview of the 15-year development from 1971-1985, where the performance and prospects of macro-economic sectors were studied.

The plan also evaluated the implementation of NEP.

The 6MP (1991-1995) further accelerated the pace of the country's socio-economic development.

The 7MP (1996-2000) retained and re-emphasised the concept of balanced development via the National Development Plan.

During the 8MP (2001-2005), the Vision 2020 concept to become a developed nation was introduced.

The 9MP (2006-2010) highlighted the five major thrusts to move the economy forward.

As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak rightly pointed out in the foreword to the 10MP, the country is facing new challenges.

The country can no longer rely on

past strategies and approaches that had previously driven economic growth.

"Malaysia needs a new approach, a new enthusiasm and a new determination driven by the 1Malaysia spirit to propel Malaysia into the next level of high growth," he said in the 429-page 10MP.

The 10MP incorporates both the Government Transformation Programme and the Economic Model, premised on high income, inclusiveness and sustainability.

Economic Planning Unit director-general Datuk Noriyah Ahmad, in a briefing to the media in Putrajaya on Wednesday, described the 10MP as "an integrated government agenda".

"It tackles the hard issues such as subsidies, the New Economic Policy and labour reforms. It is also a new approach to delivery," she said.

It was also refreshing to see how

the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department presented the 10MP.

Gone was the typical approach of reporting, where the development plan would list the sectoral reviews of the past five years and the coming plan's projections and programmes.

In its place are seven chapters of articles outlining the 10MP's objective of transforming Malaysia into a high-income economy.

At the EPU briefing, Minister in Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohd Yakcop also emphasised that the 10MP is all about change.

He said the 10MP is the first of the many development plans that has taken into consideration change.

"For 53 years, we (the country) have done well. But we need to change for two reasons. One, it is a globalised and liberalised world now. Secondly, we have changed (domestically).

"We cannot do it (the same thing) any more. We want to be driven by productivity, innovation and sustainability."

Change is, therefore, inevitable. And as Winston Churchill put it, there is nothing wrong with change if it is in the right direction.