

**Malaysia Still Needs To Address Various Challenges - Abdul Wahid  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia still needs to address various internal and external challenges for the sake of the people's welfare and well-being, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar.

Among the challenges were the uncertainty of the global economic environment, slow productivity growth, limited fiscal opportunities, low workers' compensation and household income gap, he said.

Hence he said the micro economic strategy during the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) period would focus on efforts to strengthen the economic base in ensuring sustainable growth and stimulate investment as a boost to the economy to generate more job opportunities.

"The country will also increase exports to strengthen trade balance, improve fiscal flexibility and encourage productivity enhancement," he said when tabling the 11MP proposals in Dewan Negara here today.

He said the government was focusing on the people's welfare in all development aspects although it could not be denied that there was still some people that had yet to benefit fully from the country's economic prosperity.

Abdul Wahid said the "People Centred Growth" as the 11MP theme was a reflection of the government's concern to ensure the benefits of economic development was enjoyed by all groups and no one was side-lined.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak tabled the 11MP in Parliament last May 21.

The six 11MP cores will be implemented based on the six core strategies and six drivers of change and provision that are needed to achieve the objectives of a developed and inclusive nation by 2020.

The six strategies are inclusivity, people's welfare, human capital, green growth, infrastructure and innovation as well as productivity.

The six drivers of change outlined to ensure the success of all the strategies are improving productivity, generating wealth through innovation, raising the percentage of the middle class, emphasising technical education and training (TVET), implementing green growth and investing in competitive towns.

Abdul Wahid said the 11MP was the country's last medium term planning strategy before achieving the objective of an inclusive and sustainable developed country.

"Many of the 11MP initiatives focus on better job and business opportunities, increasing

household income and improving the standard of living.

"We are aware that the target set is high. However I believe based on our achievement so far and full support and efforts from all the people, we will succeed," he said.

Meanwhile at a media conference in the Parliament lobby, Abdul Wahid said even though the world economy was quite challenging throughout the 10MP, the country could still improve its economic growth by 5.3 per cent annually.

"So we take into account our target in the next five years. Indeed we realise the landscape is different, but we will strive to attain better targets," he said.

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