



BARISAN'S PLEDGE: Abdullah, Najib (second from left), Ong (left), Samy Vellu (second from right) and Barisan secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob launching the coalition's manifesto yesterday.

Manifesto paves way to build trust

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KUALA LUMPUR: The newly-launched Barisan Nasional manifesto will give voters a reason to trust and be confident in a new coalition government, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

"Whatever that is contained in the manifesto is the pledge and commitment of a Barisan government to build a future of excellence, glory and distinction," he said.

He said the contents of the manifesto would stimulate the imagination of the people and this would encourage them to give their support to the Barisan.

He was speaking to reporters after the launch of the manifesto by Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the manifesto showed that the Barisan was for all Malaysians and it guaranteed the interests of all races



and groups living the country.

"I am confident Malaysians will continue to support the Barisan because through this manifesto, it has made very clear what its vision is, what it guarantees and what it can do for the country," he said.

Ong said the manifesto also guaranteed the views of the people would be taken into consideration and everyone would be given a chance to take part in the development of the country.

Asked about the inclusion of the pledge to continue building a modern and progressive Islam Hadhari (civilisation), Ong said this was acceptable to everyone including the Chinese because there was already the guaran-

tee that there would be religious freedom.

"While Islam is the official religion, the form practised will be pure, tolerant and respects the practice of all other religions," he said.

He said Malaysians, who have enjoyed freedom and success since independence, would reject what PAS was calling for.

"It is Barisan that will guarantee that these (freedom and success) will continue. It will bring Malaysia to a higher level of success," he said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the manifesto clearly defines the new style of leadership.

"Before, we always asked the people to support us. This time, we are telling the people that we are supporting you. This means when the people face problems, we will be there. When the people voice their complaints, we will listen. We will be closer to the people," he said.