

We need fair wealth distribution policy: PM

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MALAYSIA will always need a policy and agenda on fair wealth distribution so long as economic disparity among the races exists, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said this is crucial to ensure the fair participation of all races in the economy and to guarantee continuous national solidarity.

"The effort to correct the economic disparity involves several steps or affirmative action to raise the economic and education achievement among the races, particularly the bumiputras, so that they are comparable with non-bumiputras," he said in a written

At the Dewan Rakyat

reply in Parliament.

His reply was read out by Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Ahmad Shabery Cheek when answering questions from **Lau Yeng Peng (BN-Puchong)**.

Abdullah said affirmative action covered several aspects of economic distribution that had not achieved their objectives, for example, in areas such as corporate equity ownership, professional manpower and income disparities.

"This includes reviving the

New Economic Policy and raising the commitment of all parties involved in implementing the basic strategies, namely poverty eradication regardless of race, and restructuring communities so that race is no longer identified according to economic function," he said.

Abdullah said it was for these reasons that the government had emphasised bumiputra economic performance in the Ninth Malaysia Plan by introducing and implementing more effective measures.

"In addition, these efforts will be perfected through a stronger short-term monitoring system to ensure effective implementation."
- Bernama