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We can prevail, says Abdullah

PM confident Malaysians can overcome every test if we stand together

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KUALA LUMPUR: The true test of a country depends on how its people react in trying times, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in his National Day message.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia was never free from challenges and obstacles but each one had been successfully overcome.

"I am confident and believe we can again overcome every test we are currently facing if we stand together and work hand in hand, with a strong determination and commitment to carry out our responsibilities.

"It is my desire that every Malaysian is able to truly incul-

cate and realise how important unity is among us all," he said, adding that unity was the anchor that determined political stability, social harmony and economic resilience.

Abdullah noted that after the March 8 general elections, the country had to deal with a food crisis and a fuel hike that caused the price of basic goods to rise, as well as a higher inflation rate.

"All these are huge challenges to us and it might raise questions and concern among the people as to whether we would be able to handle the situation.

"We will continue to combat the



problem of rising prices and inflation in the best possible way. The Government is always concerned about the burden of the people,

especially those who are poor and those who are less fortunate," he said.

He said the Government had also focused on improving noble values such as integrity, a more open media, and strengthening institutions like the Parliament, judiciary, the Anti-Corruption Agency, the police and civil service.

"The Government cannot realise all these goals on its own. It needs support from all parties, especially the Malaysian public," he said.

Abdullah said the world respected Malaysia because not many countries with such a mix of races could live together harmoniously.

He nevertheless said the country still had a long way to go and much had to be done.

"We want to be a developed country in our own mould, that promises a bright future for every one of its citizens without discrimination against race, religion and background.

"This is not impossible if we unite, set aside differences and prejudices, and rise as a people with the resilience to face all enemies and challenges," he said.

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