

Economic Planning Unit:

50 Years of Charting Malaysia's Development



*Economic Planning Unit:
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PUSTAKA PERDANA



1012233

ISBN 983-40981-2-X

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July 2007

Price RM 120.00

SALE COPIES ARE OBTAINABLE FROM:

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PHOTO CREDIT:

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PRINTED BY:

Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad
Kuala Lumpur Branch
2007

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Foreword From The Prime Minister

I am most delighted to be able to contribute this Foreword to Economic Planning Unit's golden jubilee publication, "Economic Planning Unit: Fifty Years of Charting Malaysia's Development". The EPU is the nation's premier planning agency. It is a national institution whose analysis and advice are instrumental in charting the path of our national development. It is an organisation that has left its imprint on the country that Malaysia is today.

EPU was established a year before Malaya (as we were called at the time) gained its independence and prior to 1961 was known as the Economic Secretariat. As its name suggests, the principal function of the EPU is economic planning. And in this regard, its output over the past half-century has been profound and prodigious. It has been responsible for the preparation of three Outline Perspective Plans, 11 Five-Year Development Plans and their Mid-Term Reviews. It is arguably the most influential Government agency in shaping economic policy.

It has contributed in many other ways. For instance, the EPU has, on numerous occasions, played a central role in formulating responses to numerous economic and socioeconomic crises that have beset us from time to time. It has also taken on a myriad of other assorted functions, such as being secretariat to the Foreign Investment Committee, overseeing implementation of the Government's privatization policy and monitoring the improvements in our quality of life.

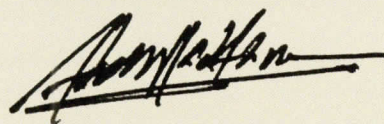
It has been active in sharing its experience and transferring its expertise to other developing nations who have sought to emulate Malaysia's successes.

Given that EPU's contributions are so inter-twined with the nation's history, it is fitting that the agency is producing a special publication that documents and charts its evolution and growth. The timing of its issuance, coming just before Malaysia celebrates the golden anniversary of its independence, is also quite resonant.

There is a distinct lack of material that chronicles our modern history. The majority of our population was born after Merdeka and therefore may not be fully aware of the struggles that we have had to go through and the challenges that we have had to face on the way to becoming the Malaysia of today. It is therefore incumbent upon us to ensure that institutional memory is kept alive, so that the people of Malaysia recognise, acknowledge and understand the difficult and painstaking task of nation building.

Unless these records are preserved for posterity, future generations of Malaysians will not be able to fully appreciate their heritage. A people who forget their past will lose their way in the future.

Congratulations once again to the EPU and all other contributing individuals and organisations for their effort in producing this valuable publication. I hope that the book will not only be seen as an anniversary publication that documents national development, but will also serve as a guide to future nation building efforts.



Y.A.B. DATUK SERI
ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister

The majority of our population was born after Merdeka and therefore may not be fully aware of the struggles that we have had to go through and the challenges that we have had to face on the way to becoming the Malaysia of today.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi
Prime Minister of Malaysia

