



**PRIME MINISTER
MALAYSIA**

Foreword

The nation is now at the mid-point of its journey towards becoming a developed country by 2020. Experience has shown us that the climb ahead is challenging and is set to become even more perilous and demanding. During the next 15-year phase to 2020, Malaysia will need to deal with great changes in the global environment, while improving and upgrading the country's domestic conditions. It is for this purpose that the Government presents the National Mission, a policy and implementation framework that outlines the country's priorities for the next 15 years, along with the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

The National Mission underscores the need to pursue programmes that enhance the nation's capability to compete globally, to strengthen national unity and to bring about a better distribution of income and wealth and higher quality of life among the people. The National Mission identifies five key thrusts which must be realised in order to achieve the country's goals and objectives.

The Ninth Malaysia Plan will chart the nation's development agenda for the first 5 years of the National Mission, aiming to translate its thrusts into programmes and results. In line with this, the Ninth Plan sets out to achieve a stronger and more value-added economy, while giving substantial focus to socio-economic issues and uplifting the quality of life for all. The development initiatives undertaken during the Plan period will also be guided by the universal principles of *Islam Hadhari*.

Quality infrastructure and necessary facilities will continue to be rolled out throughout the country for the benefit of the people. Nonetheless, strengthening human capital and bringing about a cultural and mindset change will be a key challenge during the Plan period. The most important factor in becoming a developed nation is the capability and character of the country's people. Malaysia will need to move away from the notion that it is a nation with 'first class infrastructure, but third class mentality'. We will need to adopt a holistic approach to human capital development, encompassing not only knowledge and skills, but also ethical values, progressive mindset and cultural awareness.

The Ninth Plan will seek to achieve growth with distribution. We have set ourselves the target of completely eliminating hardcore poverty and halving overall poverty to 2.8 per cent by 2010. In addition, the Government remains committed to reducing disparities of income, employment and asset ownership among the population through fair and appropriate measures.

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To reduce disparities between rural and urban areas as well as between less developed and more developed regions, the Government will increase the development allocation for development of rural areas and less developed regions. In this regard, the Government will emphasise transborder development including developing the Northern Corridor, encompassing areas in the states of Perlis, Kedah, northern Perak and Pulau Pinang; the Eastern Corridor encompassing areas in the states of Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang; the Southern Corridor focusing on southern Johor; as well as the states of Sabah and Sarawak.

The quality of life of the people will continue to receive the utmost attention. At the same time, we must manage our resources wisely and sustainably, to ensure that we safeguard the interests of the nation and that of future generations. We will give particular attention to improving the implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure that the programmes are effective in attaining the targets that have been set. We will intensify efforts to eliminate opportunities for corruption, malpractices and abuse of power in the public and private sectors. Initiatives will also be introduced to further increase transparency as well as reduce wastage. Towards improving the public service delivery system, the Government will continue to reduce bureaucratic red tape and improve the services of front line agencies.

For us to achieve the objectives of the Ninth Plan and the National Mission, all parties in the country – the public sector, private sector, civil society and the people – must take ownership of the process and must fulfill their respective duties. The population must remain united and supportive of the initiatives of

the Government to build a more prosperous nation and to bring a better quality of life for all. To underscore the importance of collaboration and collective effort, we have chosen *Together Towards Excellence, Glory and Distinction* as the theme of the Ninth Plan.

The Ninth Plan was formulated after extensive consultations with all sections of society throughout the country. This Plan has taken into account the views expressed and the proposals made in a fair and balanced manner. I wish to place on record the deep appreciation of the Government for the cooperation and support given by all concerned. I hope such spirit of cooperation will continue to be strengthened in the years ahead.

I call upon all Malaysians to work with me in making the Ninth Plan and National Mission a success.



DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister, Malaysia

Putrajaya
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