



**PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA**

## Foreword

The Mid-Term Review of the Ninth Malaysia Plan takes place amidst an extremely challenging operating environment. Nations the world over are facing a conjunction of challenges, driven by rising global commodity prices. Soaring prices of fuel, metals and food have caused tremendous hardship to populations and governments. The situation is exacerbated by uncertainty in the global financial markets due to the recent credit crisis in the United States and Europe.

Against this backdrop, the Mid-Term Review represents a time to reassess national priorities in order to ensure that lower income groups are protected. It is a time to re-examine policies in order to incorporate changes required by the new challenging environment. The road ahead will test our resilience and as such, efforts must be refocused and multiplied towards overcoming these difficulties. We shall emerge from this period stronger and better able to withstand future trials.

The National Mission remains as the Government's guiding framework. The thrusts of the National Mission ensure that a balance of objectives is kept, between ensuring advancement of the economy up the value chain; improving the country's human capital; reducing poverty and inequality; maintaining a high quality of life; and strengthening the nation's institutions.

The Mid-Term Review shows encouraging progress on all the aforementioned five thrusts. The nation continues to transform into a knowledge-based economy. The private sector continues to be facilitated through various assistance programmes. Measures were taken to improve the business environment, notably via the dedicated Taskforce to Facilitate Business or PEMUDAH. Moving forward, the emphasis will be on encouraging efficiency improvements, particularly energy consumption in the economy.

With respect to the nation's human capital development, two significant plans were launched with the aim of improving our schools and the higher education system. The education sector continues to receive the biggest allocation of development expenditure.

The Mid-Term Review recorded significant progress in reducing poverty, restructuring employment patterns and improving equity ownership. A more equitable distribution of economic opportunities will continue

to be a major aim of the remaining 9<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan period; in this direction, the five regional corridors initiative will continue to be pursued to ensure that disparities between parts of the country and the Klang Valley are reduced.

The rakyat's quality of life has become a new area of concern within the current environment of rising oil and commodity prices. Priority will be given to mitigating the impact on low to middle income groups through a variety of measures. Energy conservation and renewable energy will also be a new area of focus in line with current challenges.

Finally, the Government will continue to initiate measures to strengthen the country's institutions such as the judiciary and the civil service. Steps have been taken to set up a Judicial Appointments Commission and a Malaysian Commission on Anti-Corruption. There is now more media openness and more stakeholder engagement by the public sector. The Government will continue to pursue policies and measures to enhance transparency and good governance.

United, we will overcome any adversity and we will achieve our Vision to become a fully developed country by 2020. Let us not falter. Let us move forward together.



**DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI**  
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Putrajaya  
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