



MALAYSIA

# NINTH MALAYSIA PLAN 2006-2010

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT  
31 MARCH 2006



YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI  
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

[TRANSLATION]

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INTRODUCING THE MOTION TO TABLE  
THE NINTH MALAYSIA PLAN, 2006-2010  
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AT 3.30 P.M.

## BUILDING A CIVILISATION TO ELEVATE THE NATION'S DIGNITY

**Mr. Speaker, Sir,**

1. With great pleasure, I stand in this august House to table a motion as follows:

**"That this House,**

**acknowledges** the healthy economic growth and socioeconomic progress achieved during the implementation of the Eighth Malaysia Plan despite the challenging global environment;

**endorses** the Government's efforts to implement the National Mission as the framework for the planning and implementation of the country's developmental policies towards achieving the goals of Vision 2020;

**approves** the Ninth Malaysia Plan which encompasses the strategies, programmes and allocation designed to realise the National Mission, thereby advancing Malaysia towards becoming a more developed, just and united nation as set out in the Order Paper CMD. 1 of Year 2006.

**That** in approving the Ninth Malaysia Plan, this august House calls upon all Malaysians to work together with

the Government, with full intent and determination, in building a prosperous, progressive, just, resilient and competitive nation."

2. With the permission of the Speaker, I table the Ninth Malaysia Plan for the period 2006-2010, together with the National Mission, to be debated by the Honourable Members of this august House.

## **INTRODUCTION**

3. Praise be to Allah s.w.t. for by His grace and generosity, I am able to present you with the Ninth Malaysia Plan. Truly, Allah s.w.t commands humankind to prosper as in His firman:

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Translation: *"He brought you forth from the Earth and hath made you husband it"* (Surah Hud 11:61)

4. In the context of building our prosperity, the Ninth Malaysia Plan represents one of the most significant Malaysia Plans in our country's history, as the nation is currently at the mid-point of the journey towards the year 2020. We have just undergone the first fifteen-year phase of Vision 2020. During

that period, we faced a multitude of obstacles and challenges. The strong growth of the 1990s was interrupted by the Asian financial crisis. Our country was in the process of recovering by the year 2000, but the events of September 11, 2001 presented us with fresh challenges. Various other events have affected our country and the region, including the outbreak of SARS and avian flu, earthquakes and the *tsunami*.

5. Alhamdulillah, the country's leaders have been resolute and the Malaysian people have been diligent - we have succeeded in working together to achieve a rate of economic growth and social progress that we can be proud of. Despite the various challenges faced in the last fifteen years, the country generated an average GDP growth of 6.2 percent per annum from 1991 to 2005. This growth more than doubled average household income from RM1,169 per month in 1990 to RM3,249 a month in 2004. All economic sectors showed strong growth, including the germination of new economic sectors such as the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. As a result of this growth, the country's exports grew at a rate of 13.5 percent a year in the period 1991-2005, making the country the 18th biggest trading nation in the world.

6. The country also continued to show social progress. The poverty rate declined from 22.8 percent in 1990 to 5.7 percent in 2004. The provision of basic amenities such as health services, education and housing increased, as did the provision of other infrastructure and utilities.

7. Although we have navigated the last fifteen years successfully, we must change our mindset to face the next fifteen years. I see this second phase as a period that is even more challenging. The world is and will continue to be very different from what we have experienced in the past. No one has been spared the effects of rising world oil prices. Competition for investment and job opportunities has become more intense. In addition to competition from China and India, other Asian developing countries are also assertively developing their economies. As an open economy, Malaysia is not insulated from this competitive environment, particularly in the era of ICT.

8. At the same time, there are challenges on the domestic front. The structure of Malaysian society has changed. A large proportion of the population now resides in urban areas. With increased education levels, the middle class has expanded. The quality of life enjoyed by Malaysians has improved. Nevertheless, great disparities in income and wealth still exist especially between ethnic groups and between rural and urban areas. Ethnic polarisation is still prevalent in schools, work places and in society.

9. Malaysia must overcome these myriad challenges astutely and effectively. We need to determine the means to meet these challenges in order to achieve Vision 2020. We have no time to lose. Only fifteen years remain between now and the year 2020. These fifteen years must be our most productive years, our best years, so that we may stand tall in the year 2020 and declare that our vision has been realised.

## THE NATIONAL MISSION, 2006-2020

**Mr. Speaker, Sir,**

10. We now take the next step, to begin the second phase towards achieving Vision 2020. We want our country to be a developed country, imbued with its own unique characteristics. We want progress that is holistic, encompassing all nine aspects contained in Vision 2020, We want progress that is enjoyed by all, regardless of religion or ethnicity. We want to build a progressive and developed civilisation that echoes the glorious age of Islam and other civilisations, in line with the concept of *Islam Hadhari*.

11. As a guide for the rest of this journey, the Government has drafted and will implement the National Mission - a framework for the country's development agenda which outlines the key steps we must take in the fifteen years to come. The National Mission aims to concentrate the country's efforts on priority areas which will ultimately lead to achieving Vision 2020. These priority areas encompass the nation's global competitiveness, human capital development, national integration, ethnic relations, distribution of income and wealth and the quality of life. Our focus on these areas will enable us to attain better results and greater impact from our developmental efforts.

12. The National Mission comprises five thrusts, as follows:

- The first thrust is to move the economy up the value chain. The Government aims to increase the value added of existing economic sectors as well as generate new knowledge-intensive activities and employment in ICT, biotechnology and services. The Government will also build an environment which encourages the private sector to take a leading role in the country's economic development.
  
- Q The second thrust of the National Mission is to raise the country's capacity for knowledge, creativity and innovation and nurture 'first class mentality'. Malaysia's future success depends on the quality of its human capital, not only in terms of intellect but also character. Therefore, in line with this thrust, the Government aims to undertake comprehensive improvement of the country's education system, from pre-school to tertiary and vocational institutions. A more enabling environment will also be fostered to encourage R&D. At the same time, heavier emphasis will be placed on the shaping of values to create more well-rounded individuals.
  
- The third thrust of the National Mission is to address persistent socioeconomic inequalities constructively and productively. The Government strongly believes in eradicating poverty, generating more balanced growth

and ensuring the benefits of growth are enjoyed by the Malaysian people in a fair and just manner.

- The fourth thrust of the National Mission is to improve the standard and sustainability of our quality of life. The Government will continue to provide for basic needs such as water, energy, housing, transportation and other amenities but more emphasis must now be placed in addressing issues related to maintenance, upgrading and efficient usage of resources.
- The fifth and final thrust of the National Mission is to strengthen the institutional and implementation capacity of the country. The success of our plans rests on our ability to implement. As such, the Government aims to improve the public service delivery system at various levels. The Government will also address issues related to corruption and integrity in the public sector, the private sector and among the general public.

## THE NINTH MALAYSIA PLAN, 2006-2010

**Mr, Speaker, Sir,**

13. The Ninth Malaysia Plan represents the first of three Malaysia Plans that form the National Mission to achieve Vision 2020. As such, the Ninth Malaysia Plan is consistent with the ambition to build a country with an advanced economy,

balanced social development and a population which is united, cultured, honourable, skilled, progressive and far-sighted. To deliver the Ninth Malaysia Plan, we need to multiply our efforts towards achieving greater success in order to **build a civilisation that will elevate the nation's dignity.**

14. The Government will ensure macroeconomic conditions remain stable, enabling development to be carried out smoothly and effectively. The Government will ensure that inflationary pressures are controlled. The Government will ensure that fiscal policy continues to support growth, while the Federal Government deficit will be reduced gradually from 3.8 percent in 2005 to 3.4 percent in 2010. The public sector accounts will be managed judiciously and steps will be taken to ensure the cost effectiveness of public expenditure.

15. Domestic consumption and private investment is expected to drive growth. Private investment is expected to expand at an average rate of 11.2 percent a year, exceeding public investment for the first time since the Asian financial crisis. At the same time, total factor productivity is expected to increase from 29 percent to 35.8 percent, in line with the evolution into a more knowledge- and productivity-based economy.

16. Malaysian exports is expected to grow at a healthy rate in the next five years at a rate of 8.5 percent a year. Total trade is expected to exceed the one trillion ringgit mark for the first time.

17. Our target is to achieve average real GDP growth of 6.0 percent per annum. Based on this growth, GNP per capita is expected to increase at an average rate of 5.9 percent per annum to reach RM23.573 by the year 2010. GNP per capita adjusted for purchasing parity is expected to increase to USD13.878 in 2010.

18. Economic growth is inextricably linked with external factors. Therefore, our foreign policy will provide optimal benefits to meet the National Mission. We will strive to foster an external environment that is conducive to the accomplishment of the objectives of the Ninth Malaysia Plan. We will work to strengthen cooperation, peace and stability in the region and beyond, because our economy cannot prosper otherwise. We will aggressively undertake initiatives to seek new markets, promote our exports, attract investments and increase tourism. We will negotiate and enter into bilateral and regional trade agreements that are in our best interests. To these ends, we will also improve capacity in the institutions that are primarily responsible for preserving and promoting our interests abroad.

#### **IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL MISSION Mr.**

**Speaker, Sir,**

19. Please allow me to outline the main policies and programmes of the Ninth Malaysia Plan, which have been intended to achieve the thrusts and objectives of the National Mission.

**Thrust One: To Move the Economy Up the Value Chain**

20. Globalisation has escalated the level of competition in the international market. Not only does the domestic macro economic structure and environment need to be strengthened, but elements of the micro economy including the respective economic sectors and local corporations also need to be made more resilient. In order to enhance national long-term competitiveness, the Government will continue to promote the transition to higher value added activities in three main economic sectors, the first being manufacturing; second, services; and third, agriculture. New sources of growth in these sectors will be identified and promoted to generate additional income and to develop new sources of economic wealth.

***Enhancing Value Added in Manufacturing,  
Services and Agriculture***

21. The manufacturing sector is projected to expand by 6.7 percent per annum, and will continue to shift to high technology and knowledge-intensive activities with high value added content in various industries, especially involving electrical and electronics, petrochemicals, biotechnology, machinery and equipment, aerospace and maritime. The Government will prepare specific incentives to attract investments, including high quality FDI for manufacturing sector activities that are being promoted. In addition, we will promote small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) with high innovation capabilities to become part of the global supply chain.

22. Some of the projects that will be implemented to enhance the manufacturing sector include the expansion of Kulim High Technology Park, the establishment of Sarawak Technology Park and Perak Technology Park, the development of 20 industrial and SME parks throughout the country, and infrastructural improvements to existing industrial areas. The Government will also develop several industrial clusters, which include electrical and electronics (E&E) clusters in Pulau Pinang and Kulim High Technology Park, and petrochemical clusters in Pahang and Terengganu. To improve access to sources of finance, the Government will create several funds such as the Strategic Investment Fund, the Automotive Development Fund, the Industrial Restructuring Fund, the Automation Fund, and specific funds for biotechnology, *halal* products and handicrafts.

23. To leverage on Malaysia's advantages in the *halal* sector, particularly in terms of certification and logo recognition, the Plan will drive the sector's growth in making Malaysia an international hub for *halal* products and services. The Halal Industry Development Board will be established to develop this industry in a holistic and orderly manner.

24. The services sector will be given a boost in order to realise its full potential. This sector is projected to expand by 6.5 percent during the Plan period. At present, services

industries are mainly located within the Klang Valley. In order to expand the services sector to other locations, the South Johor Economic Region will be developed as a dynamic regional services hub, benefiting from its location and natural advantages. To enhance the services sector's access to financing, the Export Services Fund and SME Export Services Fund will be established.

25. Revenue from the tourism industry has almost doubled between 2001 and 2005. To maintain this momentum, we will develop Malaysia as a main international tourist destination, while enhancing domestic tourism. Malaysia's advantage as a centre for conferences, event organisation, sports facilities, exhibitions and conventions as well as its wealth in arts and crafts, shopping and recreation must be promoted aggressively. As such, the management of the Malaysian Tourism Board will adopt private sector business practices in order to become more dynamic. In addition, the main programmes that will be implemented by the Government include enhancing access and facilities for tourist arrivals, and improvising as well as maintaining amenities and infrastructure. An expenditure of RM1 billion has been allocated for the purpose of maintenance. By the year 2010, our target is to attract 24.6 million tourists per annum.

26. We will also develop Malaysia as a regional centre for health tourism in both traditional and modern health treatments. For this purpose, we need to develop comprehensive health services packages. Promotional efforts will also be enhanced

through the establishment of a brand for Malaysian health services, which will be known as 'Health Malaysia'.

27. For educational-related services, we will double efforts to develop Malaysia as a regional centre for excellence in the provision of tertiary level education. We will promote and export tertiary education through strategic marketing efforts and the branding of educational products.

28. For financial services, efforts will be aimed at strengthening Malaysia's position as an international centre for Islamic banking and finance. In addition to the progressive liberalisation of the financial services sector, we will continue to promote the expansion of competitive domestic financial institutions into other regional markets.

29. The Government will also promote the development of a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) industry for aircraft and vessels as well as an integrated logistics industry. For this purpose, the Government will develop a comprehensive aviation hub to attract the participation of more local and international players. Incentives will be offered and development programmes will be organised to expand and enhance the competitiveness of commercial, professional and consultancy services.

30. The agriculture sector is projected to expand by 5 percent. This sector will be given a new lease of life in order to become the third engine of economic growth. We must think

progressively and remove misperceptions that agriculture is a low value added economic activity capable of only generating small incomes. In fact, agriculture is the main economic driver for rural communities. 37 percent of Malaysians live in rural areas. 7 out of 13 states in Malaysia possess large tracts of rural land. The highest incidence of poverty, with a level of 8.3 percent, occurs amongst the Bumiputera community who form the majority of the rural population. 11.9 percent of poverty occurs in rural areas, more than twice the national average. Hence, agricultural sector development not only has the potential to generate new sources of growth, but can help to narrow national socioeconomic divides by simultaneously eradicating poverty. The Government will develop the 'New Agriculture' programme by giving focus on enhancing the value chain, cultivating high value added agricultural activities and large-scale commercial farming, utilising ICT as well as exploiting the full potential of biotechnology.

31. Initiatives will be taken to enhance productivity and competency as well as increase opportunities to generate income and wealth, expand usage of modern agricultural techniques and technology, increase R&D and innovation, improve farming accreditation, product standards and quality, as well as develop marketing capabilities and infrastructure. The Government will promote a higher level of private sector participation including that of Government-linked companies (GLCs), SMEs, graduates, agriculture entrepreneurs and skilled

labour in order to enhance the level of professionalism in the sector. Malaysia aims to become a net exporter of food by 2010.

32. To realise these objectives, RM 11.4 billion has been allocated for this sector; a 70 percent increase compared with the allocation in the Eighth Malaysia Plan. A large portion of the allocation will be for the development of infrastructure for irrigation and drainage, R&D, enhancing credit facilities and implementation of entrepreneur development programmes. Programmes to integrate and rationalise more than 100,000 hectares of land will be implemented, whereas more than 380,000 hectares of land will be replanted with rubber and oil palm. Other main projects include the creation of 28 Permanent Food Production Parks comprising a land area of almost 2,400 hectares, an Agropolis at Serdang and National Food Terminals (TEMAN) at Ipoh and Kota Bharu. We will also increase the development areas of oil palm clusters, livestock valleys, fruit valleys, aquaculture parks and *halal* food parks.

33. The agriculture sector that is being developed by the Government includes agro-based industries, which achieved a total value added worth RM 16.9 billion in 2005 and has the potential to create 128,000 new jobs over the next 5 years. There are no limits to the upside potential of this sector if it is managed effectively. The agriculture sector needs to be viewed through a new lens, infused with fresh conviction, developed with a new spirit - a new agenda.

***Generating New Sources of Wealth Through  
ICT and Biotechnology***

34. The Government will continue to implement measures to ensure that Malaysia remains a choice destination for ICT-based investments. Malaysia will realise its potential by continuing to promote the development of the shared services and outsourcing industry. Local companies will be urged to develop outsourcing and other high value added activities. The Government will develop new fields such as the local digital content industry and bio-informatics. Specific attention will be given to promote the widespread use of 'e-dagang'. Development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) will be focused on the development of corridor networks, encompassing the 3 existing cyber cities and 4 new cyber centres that will be developed, as well as enhancing facilities at Cyberjaya. To enhance access to financing sources, various funds and programmes will be developed while existing funds will be strengthened.

35. Biotechnology is an important industry, as it has the potential of generating new sources of wealth. Efforts will be increased in order to develop the biotechnology industry as a new driver of economic growth. Focus will be given to the usage of biotechnology in agriculture, health care, industrial activities and bio-informatics. To support the development of this industry, we will improve the investment regulatory framework, develop relevant infrastructure, improve access to funding, increase the rate of R&D commercialisation, increase

the number of skilled biotechnology workers and researchers, as well as attract foreign R&D partners. The Government will allocate a total of RM 2 billion to promote the development of biotechnology in order to complement private sector funding. Local and foreign companies holding 'Bio-Nexus' status will be offered attractive incentive packages.

### ***Enhancing Job Creation Mr.***

**Speaker, Sir,**

36. A total of 1.6 million new jobs were created in the Eighth Malaysia Plan. To sustain economic growth, we continue to give emphasis to the creation of new jobs to keep unemployment low and to ensure that graduates and skilled workers are able to obtain employment suitable to their qualifications. The Malaysian people must be equipped with the skills and knowledge that make them employable. For this purpose, functional training will be provided to ensure the workforce has the specific skills required by industry.

37. Every year, it is estimated that 220,000 people will join the labour force. 44,000 of them will possess tertiary qualifications. It will be a challenge to provide employment opportunities to this group. Indeed, a critical challenge that will need to be addressed is the attitude of local workers who are unwilling to accept low-level employment positions. This forces the nation to rely on foreign labour. Currently, there

is a total of 1.8 million registered foreign workers. This has resulted in many new social problems for the nation. The Government is currently structuring programmes that are designed to fortify spiritual and physical resilience and inculcate noble values to change the mindset and attitudes of Malaysian youth.

### ***The Private Sector as the Main Engine of Economic Development***

38. The economic participation of SMEs must be increased. Although SMEs represent more than 90 percent of commercial establishments, SMEs only contribute 46 percent to national output. With proper support, SMEs will be able to increase their economic participation more effectively. Initiatives that will be implemented by the Government include improving access to funding through SME Bank and providing seed funding for newly established SMEs. Specific programmes will be introduced to strengthen cooperation and linkages between SMEs and large domestic companies as well as multinational corporations (MNCs). Efforts will also be concentrated on enhancing entrepreneurial and technical capabilities of SMEs.

39. The Government and the private sector must work closely in order to ensure continuous economic growth. The implementation of privatization programmes over the last two decades has provided a strong foundation for cooperation between the Government and the private sector. Privatization

programmes have contributed to a higher level of participation of the private sector in the economy and have subsequently made the private sector a driver of economic growth. Nevertheless, there remain several aspects within the privatization program that require fine-tuning and improvements in order to make it more effective.

40. Changes that will be made include focusing on projects proposed by the Government based on national development priorities. Private financing initiative (PFI) will be introduced as a new measure under the privatization programme. The Government plans to widen the implementation of PFI-based projects during the Plan period to increase opportunities for the private sector to participate in infrastructure and utilities development. This measure will also help drive growth in the construction industry, which has been contracting over the last five years.

41. The PFI approach will be utilised in two circumstances. First, PFI can make the implementation of Government projects more efficient, in a manner where risk and reward is equitably shared between the Government and the private sector. Secondly, PFI can be utilized in situations where Government support enhances the viability of private sector projects in strategic or promoted areas. Among the projects that have been identified as feasible for the implementation of PFI include public transportation services and the development of education infrastructure. With careful implementation, PFI can also accelerate private sector investment for regional development.

***Expanding the Market for Malaysian Products and Services***

42. In order to remain competitive, initiatives to expand the market for Malaysian products and services will be intensified by strengthening our position in traditional markets and by exploring new markets. Liberalisation under WTO and AFTA as well as bilateral free trade arrangements with countries in East Asia, South Asia and Asia Pacific will expand our global reach, and provide additional opportunities for trade and investments.

**Mr. Speaker, Sir,**

**Thrust Two: Enhancing the National Capacity for Knowledge and Innovation and Nurturing Citizens with "First Class Mentality"**

43. The most precious assets of a nation are its people. The development of human capital, the upgrading of the mentality and intellectual capacity of a nation is one of the biggest challenges under the Ninth Malaysia Plan. If we wish to become a knowledge-based economy, if we wish to be a developed country and maintain that developed status, the development of human capital must be a priority. In the context of globalisation, high quality human capital has become a necessity, not merely a luxury.

44. Development of quality human capital will be intensified. The approach must be holistic and emphasise the development of knowledge, skills, intellectual capital in fields such as science, technology and entrepreneurship. Simultaneously, we must develop a culture that is progressive, coupled with high moral and ethical values. This is what is meant by human capital with "First Class Mentality". Three main strategies will be adopted:

- First, increasing the capacity for and the mastery of knowledge;
- a Second, strengthening the nation's capabilities in science, R&D and innovation;
- G Third, nurturing a cultured society that possesses strong moral values.

### ***Increasing the Capacity for Knowledge***

#### ***a. Increasing access to education and quality training at all levels***

45. There will be more education opportunities at better equipped pre-schools and primary and secondary schools. During the Plan period, the Government will build 180 primary schools and 229 secondary schools and full boarding schools. Dilapidated schools, especially those in Sabah and Sarawak will be replaced. The Government is also aware that 1,598 schools in Malaysia do not have piped water and 809 schools

do not have 24-hour electricity supply. Therefore, RM1.15 billion is allocated to improve and enhance rural school facilities, primarily in Sabah and Sarawak.

46. At tertiary level, the Universiti Darul Iman in Terengganu, Universiti Darul Naim in Kelantan and a number of polytechnics will be constructed. The Government will also increase vocational training facilities by establishing Community Colleges, MARA Training Centres and Centres of Advanced Technology.

47. Steps will also be taken to improve the academic achievements of students especially rural students. The improvement of teaching quality and the learning environment in rural schools including providing ICT facilities will be emphasised under the Plan. The education and training of teachers will be emphasised to produce qualified, skilled, responsible teachers who are proud to be educators. The status of teachers' colleges will be upgraded and improved to become Institutes of Teaching Education which can award bachelor degrees in education. The Government has allocated RM690 million for teachers' accommodation or housing quarters. Half of this allocation will be for teachers' housing quarters in rural areas.

*b. Making national schools the "School of Choice"*

48. Schools are where the seeds for national unity and national integration are sown. We must ensure a balance in the racial composition amongst students and teachers in

national schools. Various steps need to be taken towards strengthening the national schools so that they become the "School of Choice" for all races in Malaysia. The quality of teaching in national schools will be improved. The curriculum and co-curriculum activities will be reviewed to ensure a solid foundation for basic competencies and to ensure that they are in line with current human resource demands of the country. Languages such as Mandarin and Tamil will be introduced as elective subjects.

49. As part of the effort to make national schools the "School of Choice", all existing national schools will be made "Smart Schools". To this end, RM284 million will be allocated for the Smart School Programme and RM1.51 billion will be allocated for the Computerisation of Schools Programme. Educational opportunities for special children and those with learning difficulties will also be improved.

*c. Increasing the level of technical and vocational skills*

50. The capacity and effectiveness of training will be enhanced by increasing the number of public training institutions, adding further courses in technical fields, strengthening the certification/ accreditation systems and the quality of technical education, as well as encouraging private sector participation in the field of technical training. Under the "National Dual-Training System", the intake of technical trainees will be doubled. The technical curriculum will be enhanced with the cooperation and input of industry.

*d. Producing Higher Institutions of Learning of International Standard*

51. The Government will continue to take steps to increase the quality of tertiary education. Local tertiary institutions will be benchmarked against international standards. The quality of academics in terms of leadership, expertise and a sense of commitment will be enhanced. The Government targets to have 60 percent of academics in Malaysia with PhDs by the year 2010. In order to strengthen research capacity at local institutions, cooperation networks with leading international institutions will be created. Tertiary education institutions must also ensure the courses offered at their institutions are in line with the nation's needs.

***Strengthening R&D Capacity, Science and Technology***

52. The Government is fully committed to building up the country's competency in R&D, science and ability to innovate. Malaysia cannot become a developed nation without acquiring significant capabilities in science and technology. The public sector budget allocated for R&D activities is RM3.9 billion - twice the amount that was allocated under the Eighth Malaysia Plan. The Government aims to eventually spend 1.5 percent of GDP on R&D by 2010. We will encourage research as the basis for developing and deepening knowledge. To ensure that expenditure on R&D is maximised, we will prioritise and focus on specific R&D efforts and pursue the commercialisation

of R&D. The Science Fund and the Techno Fund will play an important role in achieving these aims.

53. The Ninth Malaysia Plan will focus on producing more researchers, scientists and engineers (RSE) and we target to have 50 RSEs for every 10,000 members of the labour force by 2010. To achieve this target, we have created a RM500 million S&T Human Resource Development Programme. As a start, we will implement the Brain Gain Programme - a programme directed at involving or attracting outstanding researchers, scientists and engineers, including Malaysians abroad.

#### ***Fostering a Cultured Society with Strong Moral Values***

54. A society with a "First Class Mindset" is one that we define as being knowledgeable, competitive, has a high performance culture, integrity and strong moral values. It is also a society of learned people who appreciate culture, arts and heritage, as well as the history of their nation, race and religion. This society is known by its strong sense of self-esteem and is not easily swayed by the waves of globalisation. This society is steadfast in its faith in God and loyalty to the King and country. The spirit of *Islam Hadhari* that stresses on noble universal values will be inculcated.

55. Direct participation by Malaysians in culture, art and heritage activities will contribute to the holistic development of human capital, whilst strengthening national unity. The Government will seek to increase Malaysian awareness on the importance of culture, arts and heritage in daily life and also promote the arts and culture industry within the country.

### ***Empowering Youth and Women***

56. The young are important assets and valuable natural resources. They shall inherit the mantle of leadership and continue the struggle. This Plan, the National Mission and Vision 2020 will be entrusted to them. Therefore, we must nurture in them an appreciation and understanding of the National Mission and Vision 2020. We should guide and build up the leaders amongst them. We have to nurture them and involve them in programmes to develop the nation at all levels - planning, leadership and implementation. Leaders of youth organisations must be able to fulfill the aspirations of the young. Youth organisations must be the forum for them to voice the aspirations of their generation. For that reason, the leadership and membership of youth organisations should appropriately be handed over to the young. The Government is in the process of enacting the National Youth Act, which will serve as a compass for the future of Malaysian youth.

57. Malaysia abides by the principles of gender equality. Women, when provided equal opportunity, have proven they

possess outstanding capabilities. There is no doubt at all that women have important roles in all aspects of development. Women have contributed tremendously towards the nation's development. Housewives and those who do not work full time contribute significantly towards socioeconomic development by nurturing family values and human development. The Government will continue to facilitate higher participation of women into the nation's labour force by providing more training opportunities, encouraging flexible work hours and creating a special window in existing business financing programme. In addition, the Government will continue to review existing laws and regulations that discriminate against women.

**Thrust Three: Addressing Socioeconomic Disparities Constructively and Productively**

58. The twin objectives of the New Economic Policy to eradicate poverty and restructure society was borne out of the experience of the May 13 incident. This bitter episode in the nation's history was the result of the discontent between "the haves" and "have nots" as well as the strained relations between different ethnic groups caused by inequitable distribution of the country's economic cake. The NEP was formulated to address these socioeconomic disparities through expanding the economic cake and not denying any group of its rights and share in the wealth of the country. The NEP's implementation began to address these disparities. There was reduction in poverty, people began to enjoy high quality

of life. The number of Bumiputera professionals increased and the Bumiputera and non-Bumiputera middle-class expanded.

59. However, the progress in ensuring more equitable distribution stagnated since the early 1990s when the country began liberalising. When the Asian financial crisis occurred in 1998, the disparity in income levels became even more pronounced, especially between ethnic groups, between rich and poor, and between urban and rural areas. This shows that although robust economic growth can raise income levels and enhance the quality of life of the *rakyat*, it does not in itself ensure that the benefits of economic growth are enjoyed by all citizens in a far-reaching and more equitable manner.

60. We have not achieved the targets that were set under the NEP. We cannot pretend to be blind to the realities today. We must have the courage to admit the truth because only then will it allow us to take the necessary corrective measures. If unaddressed, these disparities can threaten the harmony and stability we enjoy and consequently, thwart the country's economic development.

61. It is with this in mind that in the Ninth Malaysia Plan, we re-emphasise efforts to address socioeconomic disparities as we have not met the set targets. To address this issue, we fine tune and streamline strategies bearing in mind the open nature of the global economy and the lessons that we

have learnt from that. To be effective, strategies to be adopted will be based on the following principles:

- Firstly, to eradicate poverty and ensure no one is left out of the development process, thereby strengthening the country's socioeconomic foundation to enable steady economic growth;
- Secondly, to generate balanced development especially in under-developed areas and creating more opportunities for direct participation in the country's economic development;
- Thirdly, to ensure that all Malaysians benefit from the economic growth fairly and equitably.

### ***Eradicating Poverty***

62. Efforts to eradicate poverty, irrespective of race, region and state, will be intensified. Poverty eradication must be the first step in the larger effort to address disparities in the country's socioeconomy. This will then ensure that the needs of citizens are met, the socioeconomic foundation is strengthened, economic growth sustained and harmony and stability maintained.

63. Effective implementation of the poverty eradication programme requires us to know exact details of the target poverty group. To determine who the target group are, the Government has revised the Poverty Line Income (PLI)

bearing in mind the significant changes in price structures, consumption patterns and standard of living since 1977 when the PLI was first introduced. Besides allowing more accurate information about poverty to be obtained, the new PLI would be able to help identify and reduce the burden of those who are clearly poor under current conditions, but are not categorised as such under the old PLI. These include the urban poor.

64. Based on the new PLI, in 2004, the overall poverty rate in the country was at 5.7 percent and hard-core poverty at 1.2 percent. The Government intends to reduce the overall poverty rate to 2.8 percent and to eradicate hard-core poverty entirely by 2010.

65. The main focus of the poverty eradication programme is to build the capacity of the poor by improving their access to education and skills training, instil positive thinking and build self-confidence and motivation. This will encourage active involvement of the poor in economic activities. To facilitate the involvement of the poor in development and economic activities, the Government will facilitate access to financing and provide better infrastructure. Special programmes will be implemented to address rural poverty and urban poverty among the Bumiputera in Sabah and Sarawak as well as the Orang Asli community. Nevertheless, recognising that there are certain groups that are unable to participate directly in economic activities, the Government will continue to provide direct assistance to the elderly, the disabled and the destitute.

### ***Achieving Income Parity***

66. Although the Eighth Plan saw a rise in average household income, the overall income gap and that between rural and urban areas continued to widen. We need concerted efforts to achieve income parity and reduce the income gap. We have set some targets to reflect the Government's commitment to address this issue. The income gap between Bumiputera and the ethnic Chinese will be narrowed from a ratio of 1:1.64 in 2004 to 1:1.50 in 2010 and between Bumiputera and ethnic Indians from a ratio of 1:1.27 in 2004 to 1:1.15 in 2010. The income gap between rural and urban areas will be reduced from 1:2.11 in 2004 to 1:2 in 2010. The Government also aimed to increase the share of household income of the bottom 40 per cent of the population.

### ***Spearheading Regional Development***

67. The Government will increase the amount allocated for the development of rural areas as well as under-developed regions to reduce the development gap between rural and urban areas as well as between under-developed regions and developed regions. However, merely increasing allocations is insufficient in the era of the global economy. What is needed is a development formula that is integrated, comprehensive and dynamic. The time has come for centres of growth and development not to be exclusively concentrated in the Klang Valley. Therefore, the Government will develop new growth

areas including focusing on transborder development between states in order to enable the benefits of development projects to be enjoyed by several states at once. We will therefore develop a Northern Peninsula Corridor encompassing the states of Perlis, Kedah, northern Perak and Seberang Perai; an Eastern Corridor covering southern Kelantan, northern Terengganu and eastern Pahang; and Sabah and Sarawak.

68. Apart from this, regional growth centres will be identified in several regions to spearhead development. The Southern Johor Economic Region will be developed in a comprehensive and systematic manner. The construction of the Second Penang Bridge will spur growth in nearby areas, including mainland Pulau Pinang, Kedah and Perak and, will spur economic activities particularly for businesses that benefit from the port facilities and air cargo services.

69. Integrated development will be undertaken to consolidate villages as well as establish growth centres. The Government will improve infrastructure and facilities as well as create new economic opportunities to generate income and employment, particularly in modern agriculture, agro-based industries, and the services sector. A total of RM1.2 billion will be utilised to improve water supply to rural areas; RM1 billion for rural electrification, RM2.7 billion for rural road construction and RM900 million for construction of village roads. New regional development authorities will be established in Sabah and Sarawak to develop rural areas and rural growth centres.

### ***Reducing the Wealth Disparity***

70. The Government is committed to achieving the target of at least 30 per cent Bumiputera equity share ownership. Realistically, the target can only be achieved over a longer time period. Therefore, we have set the target to achieve at least 30 per cent Bumiputera equity share ownership by the year 2020. The privatization programme will remain as a foundation to assist qualified Bumiputera to participate in business. Meanwhile, we will continue to develop sources of capital for Bumiputera, for example land and *wakaf* assets currently under the state Islamic religious authorities. The state Islamic religious authorities need to shoulder the responsibility of *fardu kifayah*, play an active role to develop the economy of Muslims and assist in the development of human capital. The scope of Bumiputera ownership of assets will be widened to include housing and commercial property ownership, especially in urban areas. For this purpose, the Urban Development Authority (UDA) will be re-established to complement the efforts of *Yayasan Amanah Hartanah Bumiputera*. We will also encourage greater Bumiputera ownership of intellectual property.

71. We will also assist in the development of customary land in Sabah and Sarawak. We will implement a comprehensive plan to accelerate the development of the *Orang Asli* community. This includes creating more income generating opportunities through *Skim Pembangunan Kesejahteraan Rakyat* (SPKR) and relocation schemes as well as introducing rural entrepreneurship programmes.

72. We will take appropriate steps to raise the share of equity ownership of ethnic Indians to 3.0 per cent by 2020. Besides encouraging entrepreneurship, we will increase opportunities for skills training for Indian youths at *Pusat Giat MARA* and *institut Keusahawanan Negara* (INSKEN), as well as establishing *Pusat Putra*. The Government will continue to improve the environment and facilities in new villages. With these efforts and programmes, all ethnic groups will derive the full benefit from economic opportunities that are being provided under this Plan.

### ***Restructuring Employment Patterns***

73. In the five-year period of the Plan, the Government will strive to ensure that the employment pattern in all sectors of the economy truly mirrors the racial composition of Malaysian society. The private sector must play its role in enhancing Bumiputera participation in sectors where they are under-represented. Efforts must also be intensified to ensure increased non-Bumiputera participation in the public sector and in sectors where they are under-represented. We will monitor strictly the progress in restructuring the employment sector.

### ***Developing the Next Generation of Bumiputera Commercial and Industrial Community***

74. The Government will continue to develop the Bumiputera Commercial and Industrial Community (BC1C) as part of the

agenda to restructure society and ensure more meaningful participation of Bumiputera in the economy. The second phase of the BC1C programme will be launched with the aim of developing Bumiputera entrepreneurs who are independent, resilient and competitive, as well as to develop sustainable Bumiputera SMEs. To improve the implementation of BCIC programmes, we will seek to improve the capability of trust agencies, GLCs and cooperatives. The involvement of Bumiputera in new growth areas will be encouraged. The franchise and vendor development programmes will be strengthened. We will be more systematic and focused in our approach to develop rural-based entrepreneurs, specifically agro-based and handicraft SMEs.

### ***Achieving a Balanced and Meaningful Development***

75. In order to bring about more balanced development so that its benefits are shared fairly and equitably among the *rakyat*, there has to be strong commitment from the government, private sector, non-governmental organisations, as well as each and every Malaysian. Programmes to create a more balanced socioeconomy never meant that existing wealth of any group would be redistributed, instead, it is aimed at increasing wealth and redistributing the expanding cake gradually through the active and direct participation of all groups in the country's growth process.

76. Studies have shown that by undertaking the steps that we have recommended, including that of distribution, by the year 2010, household income would be raised by 25 per cent on average, from today's levels. In other words, all races would be able to enjoy a rise in their income levels. What needs to be stressed here is the fact that by implementing distribution policies, not only the Bumiputera, but all other races will be able to enjoy the benefits as well.

77. Nevertheless, the Government is cognisant of the need for distribution policies and programmes to be properly designed, implemented and monitored in order to be fair to all groups. Poor implementation and monitoring of policies allows for leakages and abuse to occur and hence, the benefits will only be enjoyed by a small group of people. This should not be allowed to occur. In order to realise a more balanced and meaningful development, we must accept the fact that a policy that does not provide meaningful opportunities for all groups, primarily the majority group, is not viable in the long-term.

78. Therefore, we are committed to implementing distribution policies fairly and effectively. The Government will ensure speedy set-up of implementation and monitoring structures to ensure that the impact of the policies and programmes will be realised as soon as possible. We must view the target of achieving social justice and harmony as a duty (*amanah*) entrusted to us. We have to undertake this duty with sincerity and firmness and so that our vision for a brighter future for

our country and nation will come to fruit for this generation and the generations to come.

**Thrust Four:      Enhancing the Level and Sustaining the  
Quality of Life**

79. A nation's development is also evaluated by the quality of life of its citizens. The Government will ensure that all citizens benefit from the development programmes and share the fruits of success. Such development will be more meaningful if it is equitably shared to improve the quality of life of the citizens.

***Meeting Housing Needs and Improving Urban Services***

80. In the Eighth Malaysia Plan, the number of houses built exceeded the set targets. The quality of low cost houses also improved. We will continue to ensure sufficient quality and affordable housing for all citizens, especially for those in the lower income group. The Government will build approximately 43,800 units of low cost houses through *Program Perumahan Rakyat*. This will be complemented by the building of approximately 29,000 low-and medium-cost houses by *Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad*. The private sector must complement such Government efforts to build low-cost houses through mixed development projects.

81. We will continue to enhance the quality and efficiency of urban services by restructuring local authorities and applying Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor performance. Local authorities have an important role in ensuring clean and environmentally-friendly surroundings in which people can work and live in a more conducive lifestyle. A conducive, clean and nature-friendly environment in residential and commercial areas will directly assist in inculcating a "first class mindset" amongst the citizens, Local authorities have a key role to play in furthering the national agenda by providing attractive and well planned business premises for Bumiputera. The use of ICT will also be expanded to enhance efficiency of services. The Government will also implement the National Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan. The National Urbanisation Policy will be formulated to assist in the planning and implementation of urban services.

### ***Improving Healthcare Services***

82, Facilities for health care will be improved to provide for an active and alert society. Current facilities will be upgraded whilst new facilities will be built to provide a comprehensive package of services. This includes building 8 new hospitals, replacing 14 old hospitals and building specialist centres. Mobile clinics will be increased to improve healthcare services in rural areas. Primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services will be integrated through an efficient and effective referral system. A human resource action plan will be drafted

and RM1 billion will be allocated to human resource development in healthcare.

### ***Improving Transportation Facilities and Infrastructure***

83. A superior public transportation system that meets the needs of the people is another characteristic of a developed nation. The high incidence of road accidents and traffic congestion that arises from limited road capacity is extremely unproductive for the country. This is exacerbated by the increase and instability in the price of petroleum derived fuels. The Government has the political will to improve the public transportation system effectively. The establishment of the Public Transport Trust Fund will be one of the initial steps in this direction.

84. The commuter, LRT and monorail systems have proven to be effective investments. Nevertheless, these systems need to be integrated comprehensively with a wider network in order to become the choice mode of transportation. We need a complete feeder system, on-time services, increase in frequencies and less waiting time. Transportation planning must take into account the growth of new residential areas, new commercial centres and complexes, new public infrastructure such as schools and also population growth and density.

85. A National Commission will be established to regulate the overall public transportation system in the country and a specific commission will be established for the Klang Valley. Integrated transport terminals will be built in Gombak and BandarTasikastransit hubs to Kuala Lumpur. The Government will also implement a number of major projects across the country, including the Penang Monorail and the Eastern Dispersal Link in Johor.

86. The Government will continue building new roads and upgrade current roads to facilitate access to less developed areas and to link regional growth centres with areas that have tourism potential.

### ***Ensuring the Sustainability of Energy Supply***

87. Adequate and quality energy supply is key to the nation's development. The public has to realise the value and scarcity of such resources. An energy conservation culture must be inculcated. Buildings should be designed to optimise energy usage. Such resources need to be prudently and carefully utilised. The Government will adopt measures to reduce wastage by enhancing energy efficiency and increasing energy sufficiency. The Government is also committed to reduce dependence on petroleum products through the increased usage of alternative fuels such as biofuel and biodiesel as well as renewable energy.

***Enhancing Water Supply Systems and Overcoming Floods***

88. I am deeply saddened by what is happening to the nation's water resources. Contamination has killed off much of our aquatic life. Rivers that were once abundant with fish, prawns and terrapins are now barren.

89. As revealed by God, this is the Earth's retribution against the cruelty of mankind. Overlogging, encroachment into water catchment areas, unrestrained greed, indiscriminate waste disposal in rivers and drains are among the root causes. God has bestowed this Earth with rain and rivers that flow from hilltops to valleys. These gifts must be honoured and protected. Many around the world suffer from a shortage of water. If we do not exercise due care, our country will soon face a water crisis in the near future. We must therefore manage our water resources more efficiently and responsibly.

90. The Government will focus on improving the quality, coverage and reliability of water supply. *Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara* (SPAN) will regulate the quality of water supply throughout the country to safeguard the interests of consumers. Water supply infrastructure will be built and upgraded. Among the major projects that will be implemented include the Pahang-Selangor Interstate Raw Water Transfer, Triang and Batu Hampar Water Supply Scheme in Negeri Sembilan, Sandakan Phase 2 in Sabah as well as Phase 2

of Langat Water Treatment Plant in Selangor. The Government will also allocate RM1.48 billion to rehabilitate the distribution network to reduce the rate of non-revenue water from 38 percent in 2005 to 30 percent by 2010.

91. We will continue to initiate flood mitigation measures. We will not be able to adequately develop the eastern corridor and other regions without overcoming the flood problem. The Government will spend almost RM4 billion for flood mitigation projects, compared to RM1.79 billion in the Eighth Malaysia Plan. Flood mitigation projects will be implemented. Apart from that, flood prevention measures will also be implemented through control of land usage as well as an integrated forecast, warning and response system that is efficient.

### ***Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Resource Management***

92. God has blessed the country with natural resources and an environment that provides for all God's creation including food and medicine. Beaches and seas, hills and rivers, tropical forests and flora and fauna are national treasures which are valuable assets and an attraction for eco-tourism. Unfortunately, such beauty is being destroyed by irresponsible human action and greed. The environment is damaged, degraded and contaminated. Our treasures will become extinct and God's gifts lost forever. We must learn our lessons from past mistakes.

93. Therefore, the Government has a responsibility to ensure there is a balance between development and environmental sustainability. We will step up enforcement and increase preventive measures. For this purpose, RM510 million has been allocated for cleaning, preserving and beautifying rivers; RM350 million for coastal management; RM200 million for reforestation; and another RM70 million for the management of wildlife and protected areas.

### ***Developing Sports***

94. Sports plays an important role in strengthening national harmony and unity, instilling patriotism and developing a disciplined and competitive society. Malaysia will continue to promote both mass and high performance sports. We will give emphasis to inculcate a sporting culture amongst the citizens whilst working towards sporting excellence at the international level. 13 Community Sports Complexes will be built. The private sector will be encouraged to provide sporting and recreational facilities as well as sponsor sports and recreational programmes.

### ***National Defence and Maintaining Public Order***

95. National security and public order have a major influence on the political and economic climate. A country which is free

from any internal or external threats can increase investor confidence and ensure political stability. The level of crime in the country needs to be mitigated effectively. The move to improve the effectiveness of the police force by improving capacity will be given significant attention. It is also important to enhance and modernise the national defence mechanism to safeguard sovereignty. Apart from the role played by the army and police force, citizens must assist in ensuring stability. The media, political parties, non-government organisations as well as individuals must be sensitive to issues related to religion, race, culture and language and must not instigate issues that threaten peace and security.

**Thrust Five: To Strengthen the Institutional and Implementation Capacity of the Country**

96. The National Mission and the Ninth Malaysia Plan were formulated based on the input, views and feedback from various parties. Nevertheless, the planning contained therein may not be perfect and may require further refining. However, the more important thing is to ensure effective and efficient implementation. Malaysians want to see the political will and determination of the Government in implementing this Plan as the first step towards realising the National Mission and ultimately achieving Vision 2020.

97. Hence, it is the Government's duty to structure the implementation, monitoring and evaluation machinery to become more effective. It is the responsibility of the Government to build the capacity of that machinery with first class human capital development. It is the duty of the Government to improve and amend existing laws and regulations in order to facilitate development and reduce obstacles,

98. Therefore, the fifth thrust of the National Mission is to strengthen the country's institutional and implementation capacity. The Government will improve organisational structure; facilities and work environment; the quality of human capital; and laws and regulations. With these steps, the Government expects to enhance the performance of frontline Government agencies as well as improve the delivery system particularly amongst GLCs.

99. As a specific step towards strengthening the country's implementation, monitoring and evaluation system, I would like to announce in this august House the restructuring and re-scoping of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC). The NEAC will henceforth focus on the implementation of programmes and projects to ensure effective service delivery. I am also proposing the establishment of two National Implementation Action Bodies; one to monitor selected high impact projects in the Ninth Malaysia Plan and the second to monitor programmes related to the formation of a new generation of the Bumiputera Commercial and Industrial Community (BCIC2). I will chair both bodies and other members

will include the Deputy Prime Minister, relevant Cabinet Ministers and the Chief Secretary to the Government. These two Bodies will be supported by a National Implementation Directorate, which will comprise project management experts.

100. Additionally, human capital development amongst the civil service will be intensified. Local and foreign institutions will be involved in the education and training. Meanwhile, laws and regulations which impede development will be reviewed and amended. For this task, a Public-Private Sector Action Committee will be formed to recommend needed amendments to laws and regulations.

101. I would like to caution however that the success of implementation does not only rest on the public sector; other institutions such as the private sector, civil society, Parliament and the media all play vital roles. Indeed, the collective effort of all these institutions will determine the level of our achievements in economic growth as well as social progress.

102. I would like to emphasise once again that the country's implementation machinery must be predicated on the values of trustworthiness and integrity in order to increase accountability and to raise governance of national administration. Without trustworthiness and integrity, the country cannot be said to be developed in the true sense of the word, no matter how developed the economy, the social landscape or the quality of life.

103. The National Integrity Plan has been drafted and it contains plans and strategies towards building a society with integrity. The implementation of the National Integrity Plan will be strengthened. The Malaysian Integrity Institute will intensify steps to educate and create awareness in the public sector, private sector and the public to encourage the practice and internalisation of integrity in work and in everyday life.

104. The Government remains firmly committed to combatting corruption even if efforts appear to run against the tide. To step up the battle against graft, we will increase enforcement by adding more manpower, equipment and other enforcement tools. Anti-Corruption Agency investigating officers will be trained in latest techniques. At the same time, regulatory agencies such as Bank Negara and the Securities Commission will continue to ensure that private sector companies improve the quality of corporate governance and adhere to related regulations. To ensure more effective enforcement in the corporate sector, the Securities Commission and the Companies Commission will work together to oversee nearly all laws related to commercial entities in Malaysia.

### **DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION**

105. To achieve the National Mission during the Ninth Malaysia Plan, the Federal Government will allocate a total of RM200 billion for development expenditure, an increase of RM30

billion from the Eighth Malaysia Plan. Furthermore, projects worth RM20 billion will be implemented through the private finance initiative. Out of the total allocation, 44.9 percent will be distributed to development projects under the economic sector; 37.5 percent for the social sector; 10.6 percent for security and 6.9 percent for general administration.

106. For the sub-sectors, education and training will receive the biggest percentage of the allocation, at 20.6 percent, in line with the Government's resolve to enhance the human capital quality. Public transportation sector's allocation is 15.9 percent; energy and public facilities, 10.9 percent; trade and industries, 9.9 percent; agriculture, 5.7 percent; health, 5.4 percent; and housing, 5.0 percent. For development allocation by state, we have taken into consideration the need to reduce the development gap between states and between regions. The Government is confident that the allocation is adequate to give effect to the intention and objectives of the Plan.

## CONCLUSION

107. The Ninth Malaysia Plan allows us to identify the progress we have made, identify weaknesses and put us on track to achieve developed nation status by 2020. The National Mission provides a long-term perspective; formulated to produce better performance and enhance the impact from the efforts that have been undertaken to develop the nation.

108. It is of utmost importance that we ensure implementation is on schedule; and that the returns we generate commensurate with our spending. Implementation, monitoring and assessment mechanisms will be strengthened. The Economic Planning Unit and the Implementation Coordination Unit under the Prime Minister's Department will be responsible to ensure that the programmes implemented are in line with the development thrusts and accomplish the objectives set. I, with the assistance of my Deputy, will be heading the high-level committee to monitor the implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

109. We need full commitment and concerted efforts from all parties to ensure the successful implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan. I would like to reiterate that each one of us plays an important role in ensuring success of our nation and our race. The private sector must take the lead in generating the economic growth while the public sector enables economic growth and is the provider for socioeconomic facilities. Civil society must be a partner in development. If we want to realise our aspiration to become a developed nation, every citizen has to show commitment and willingness to work hard, improving our self-worth and embrace lifelong learning.

110. May we achieve our wish to build a nation that is more prosperous, developed, progressive and dynamic; a nation that is capable of providing a better quality of life to its people. May we build a golden civilization that earns the

respect of the world. May the Almighty bless our sincerity and labour.

111. Ya Allah, You are the One Exalted in Power, the One Full of Knowledge - between the good and evil; between the obvious and the unseen. Protect us from calamity and danger - from disturbances and strife; grant us our prayers; guide us to righteousness and to the path that You bless, provide us with people that are sincere, trustworthy, noble and honest; responsible in building a developed nation - building a united people - we forever seek Your blessings, "Towards Excellence, Glory and Distinction".

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

move the motion.