



THE NATIONAL MISSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Malaysia has made significant strides in nation-building, in developing its economy and in improving the quality of life of its people. Since Independence, real gross domestic product (GDP) has grown by an average of 6.5 per cent per annum during 1957 to 2005, one of the highest growth rates achieved by sovereign nations of similar age and size. Within the same period, GDP per capita in current prices grew by 7.0 per cent per annum, which has translated into substantial improvements in the people's quality of life. Widespread advances were made in education, health, infrastructure and industry. A poor, mainly agrarian country has been transformed into a diversified and relatively prosperous nation. A divided people, with no recent history of self-government, has made way for a united nation, where national identity and national pride have been forged through self-determination and through triumph over great obstacles, guided by the principles of the *Rukunegara*.

2. The course of Malaysia's development was shaped by the vision, thinking and efforts of many of the country's great leaders and thinkers, as enshrined in the Constitution and as encapsulated in the three key national policy frameworks that are the New Economic Policy (NEP), 1971-1990, the National Development Policy (NDP), 1991-2000 and the National Vision Policy (NVP), 2001-2010. Each of these policy frameworks was based on a profound understanding of the needs and challenges of the time, as well as the responses required for the nation. Equally important, these frameworks captured the collective aspirations of the country. These aspirations culminated in the launch of Vision 2020 in 1991, outlining the aim of attaining developed nation status by the year 2020.

3. Malaysia is now at the mid-point in its journey towards 2020 and is just embarking upon the second 15-year phase. In many respects, the core NEP, NDP and NVP objectives of national unity, growth and social equity remain. However, the circumstances and environment in which the country operates have changed significantly. Malaysia is now an open trading economy participating

in an extremely competitive and fast-moving global marketplace. The opening up of China and India has changed the economic landscape dramatically for developed and developing countries alike. Information and communications technology (ICT) has changed the speed and spread of transactions. Labour- and capital-intensive modes of development have given way to productivity- and knowledge-based growth.

4. Similarly, the face of Malaysian society has changed. The population has become increasingly urbanised and educated while the middle income group has expanded. Yet, there are still considerable income and wealth inequalities due to persistent disparities in inter- and intra-ethnic distribution as well as differences between rural and urban incomes and between less developed and more developed regions. By many accounts, racial polarisation is felt in schools, in the workplace, in residential areas and by society in general.

5. The creation of a truly developed Malaysian society must be premised not only on a resilient and competitive economy, but also on the basis of equity and inclusion for all groups. While economic growth and dynamism must be vigorously pursued, gross disparities in economic opportunities and livelihoods must not be allowed to persist and to jeopardise the very foundations of national development.

6. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen the overall mindset, culture, values and social institutions to be more in step with the country's economic development. There is a danger of the country possessing first-class infrastructure but third-class mentality. In order to pursue further growth and development, Malaysia will need to fortify its moral and ethical foundations while enhancing its mindset and attitudes towards excellence and performance.

7. Amidst these challenges and imperatives, the country remains steadfast in its determination towards becoming a strong, developed and united nation. In this regard, a new policy and implementation framework - the National Mission - has been drawn up, outlining the approach to be taken to achieve the country's vision and objectives in the next 15 years. In summary, the National Mission is a framework aimed at obtaining greater impact and performance from the country's development efforts towards achieving Vision 2020. The framework acknowledges that to attain developed nation status, formed in its own mould and confident in its own capabilities, Malaysia must pursue policies and programmes which enhance its capacity to compete globally; which improve national integration and reduce tendencies towards racial polarisation; and which bring about a better distribution of income and wealth through meaningful participation of all groups in the competitive and productive growth process.

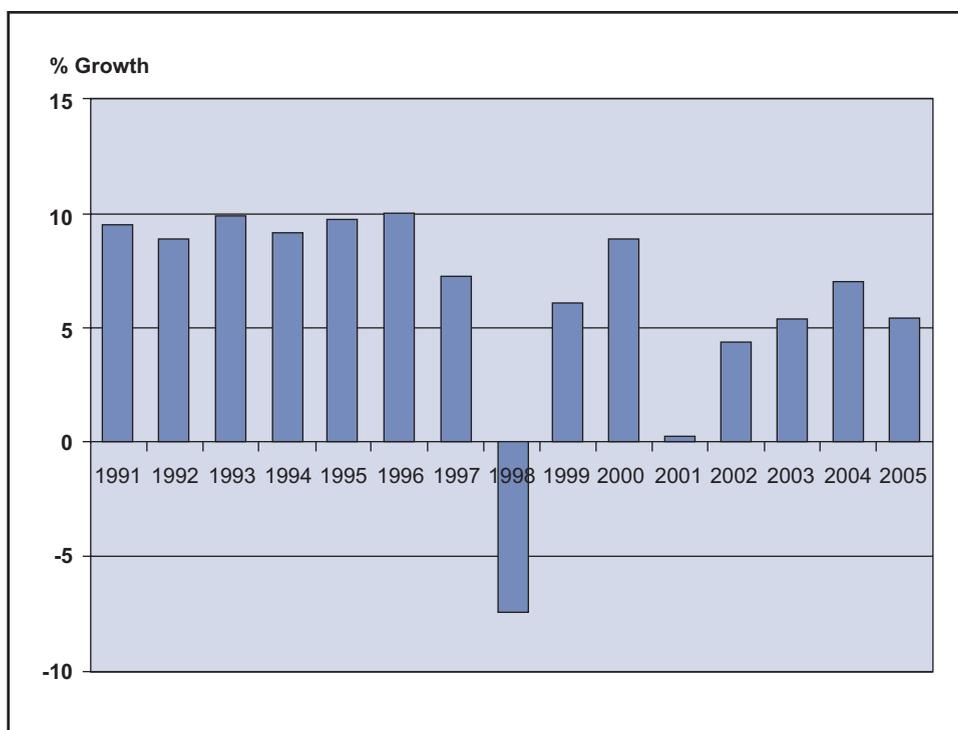
II. TOWARDS 2020: THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS, 1991-2005

The Economy

8. The Malaysian economy grew at an average rate of 6.2 per cent per annum during the 1991-2005 period, as shown in *Chart 1*. This strong rate of growth was achieved despite the challenges faced from events such as the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, the September 11 incident in 2001, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian flu as well as increases in world oil prices.

CHART 1

REAL GDP GROWTH, 1991-2005



Source: Department of Statistics

9. Economic fundamentals remained strong. Growth was achieved with inflation averaging a low 2.9 per cent per annum and similarly low unemployment averaging 3.1 per cent over the period. The current account of the balance of payments and the consolidated public sector account registered twin surpluses by the end of the period. The level of savings and external reserves rebounded to healthy levels after the Asian financial crisis.

10. GDP per capita in current prices grew at an average of 7.1 per cent per annum to RM18,489 or US\$4,904 in 2005. When adjusted for Malaysia's cost of living, the PPP¹-adjusted GDP per capita in 2005 doubled to US\$10,318. Compared to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, Malaysia's PPP-adjusted GDP per capita is above Mexico's and below Poland's, as shown in *Table 1*.

TABLE 1
**COMPARISON OF MALAYSIA'S PPP-ADJUSTED
GDP PER CAPITA WITH SELECTED OECD ECONOMIES**

Country	US\$		Average Annual Growth Rate
	1990	2005 ^e	1991-2005
United States of America	22,921	41,762	4.1
Japan	18,789	31,386	3.5
Korea, Republic of	8,504	21,383	6.3
Hungary	8,949	16,628	4.2
Poland	5,827	13,364	5.7
Malaysia	5,284	10,318	4.6
Mexico	6,098	9,991	3.3
Turkey	4,476	8,137	4.1

Source: National Accounts OECD, OECD Paris 2005 and EIU database

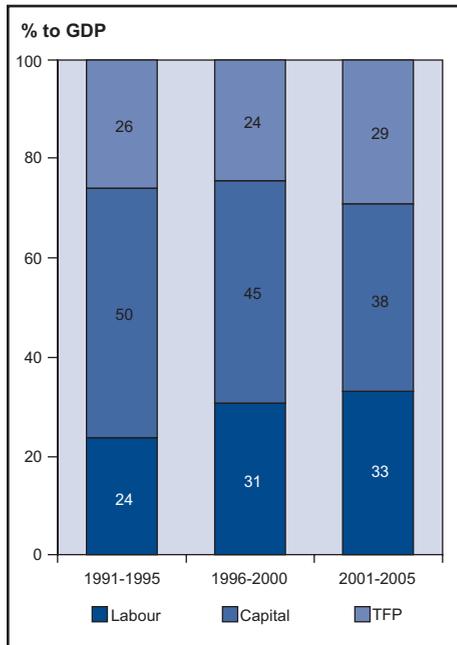
Notes: ^e Refers to estimates.

11. The economy evolved from capital-led growth in 1991 to growth based more evenly on capital, labour and total factor productivity (TFP²) in 2005, as shown in *Chart 2*. Malaysia's economic structure continued to develop from manufacturing to services, as shown in *Chart 3*. Growth of knowledge-based service industries was expanded with the establishment of the Multimedia Super Corridor in 1996, followed by other initiatives such as the National Biotechnology Policy launched in 2005.

¹ The Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is one of the indicators used to compare the standard of living between countries. It is useful because comparing the gross domestic product in a common currency does not accurately depict differences in material wealth. PPP takes into account both the differences in wages and the differences in cost of living.

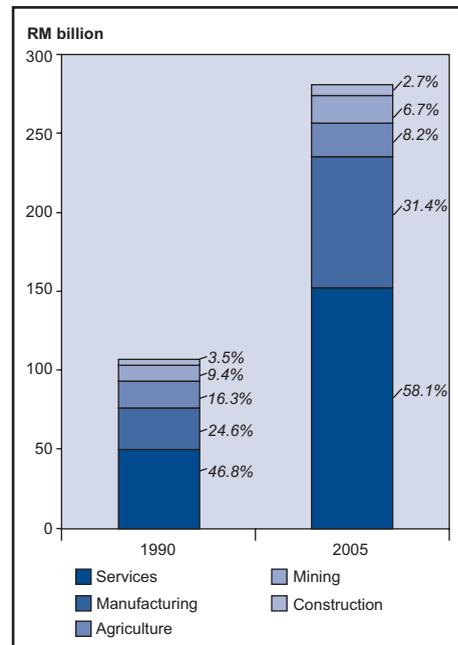
² Total Factor Productivity (TFP) is estimated using the Cobb-Douglas production function by subtracting from total growth, the portion which is accounted for by increases in labour and capital. TFP refers to the additional output generated as a result of the introduction of new technology or upgrading of technology; innovation; superior management techniques; gains from specialisation; improvements in efficiency, know-how, workers' education, skills and experience; and advancement in ICT.

CHART 2
COMPOSITION OF FACTORS OF PRODUCTION, 1991-2005



Source: Economic Planning Unit

CHART 3
STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMY, 1990-2005
(% to GDP)



Source: Department of Statistics

Human Capital: Education, Innovation and Values

12. Overall, the national education participation rate improved with significant increases made at the pre-school and tertiary levels, as shown in *Table 2*. The average class size and teacher-student ratios improved for primary and secondary schools. In addition, various measures were taken to review the curriculum, to increase the teaching and utilisation of ICT in schools and to enhance teaching skills. Nevertheless, much scope remained for raising the quality of primary and secondary schools, especially national schools, as well as for reducing disparities between schools in urban and rural areas.

13. To meet the increased demand for skilled human resource, a total of 597,384 skilled workers was produced by training institutions and 4.8 million training places for skills upgrading were provided by *Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad* during the 1991-2005 period. Opportunities for skill enhancement and lifelong learning were also expanded through the establishment of community colleges and open universities. However, tertiary and training institutions still needed to become more aligned with industry, in order to better meet the needs of employers.

TABLE 2
ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND CLASS SIZE, 1990-2005

	1990	2005	Average OECD Countries (2003)
Participation Rate (%)			
Pre-school (4-6 years old)	33.1	60.0	
Primary	93.2	96.0	
Secondary	68.0	85.0	
Tertiary ¹ (17-23 years old)	16.9	29.9	
Average Class Size (Student)			
Primary	33.2	31.0	21.6
Secondary	33.6	32.5	23.9 ²
Teacher-Student Ratio			
Primary	1:20.4	1:17.2	1:16.5
Secondary	1:18.9	1:16.3	1:13.6

Source: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education

Notes: ¹ Refers to degree, diploma, *Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia*, matriculation, A-level and post-*Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* certificate.

² Refers to lower secondary.

14. In line with the shift towards growth based on knowledge and innovation, the national gross expenditure on research and development (GERD) expanded at an average rate of 9.4 per cent per annum from RM1.1 billion in 1990 to RM4.3 billion in 2005. The ratio of GERD³ to GDP improved from 0.4 per cent in 1990 to 0.9 per cent in 2005. The number of researchers per 10,000 population increased from seven in 1990 to 25 in 2005, a good improvement but still a distance from the OECD average of 61. The rate of research and development (R&D) commercialisation was low, while the number of patents granted⁴ to Malaysian residents remained small, from 20 in 1990 to 37 in 2005.

15. The usage of ICT improved with the increased penetration rate for personal computers from 1.2 per cent in 1990 to 21.8 per cent in 2005. However, penetration rates for Internet dial-up and broadband were still relatively low at 13.9 per cent and 1.9 per cent in 2005, respectively, partly due to limited coverage.

³ The OECD average is 2.24 per cent of GDP (2003).

⁴ The OECD average is 1,575 patents per year.

16. *Islam Hadhari* was introduced in 2004 as a comprehensive and universal development framework for the nation. The framework was formulated as an approach that enjoins progress and advancement as an imperative for the people, while being firmly rooted in the universal values and injunctions of Islam. *Islam Hadhari* outlined 10 principles to empower the people to face global challenges, while ensuring that its approach and implementation are acceptable to all groups in the country.

BOX 1

ISLAM HADHARI

In order to achieve a balance between physical and spiritual development, the Government launched a comprehensive and universal development framework called *Islam Hadhari* (Civilisational Islam) in 2004. This framework emphasises development, consistent with the tenets of Islam with focus on enhancing the quality of life through the mastery of knowledge and the development of the individual and the nation; the implementation of a dynamic economic, trading and financial system; and the promotion of integrated and balanced development that creates knowledgeable and pious people who hold to noble values and are honest, trustworthy, and are prepared to take on global challenges.

Islam Hadhari is not a new religion. It is not a new teaching nor is it a new mazhab (denomination). *Islam Hadhari* is an effort to bring the people back to basics and back to the fundamentals, as prescribed in the Quran and the Hadith that form the foundation of Islamic civilisation.

Islam Hadhari outlines ten principles as follows:

- Faith in and piety towards Allah;
- A just and trustworthy government;
- Free and liberated people;
- A rigorous pursuit and mastery of knowledge;
- Balanced and comprehensive economic development;
- A good quality of life for the people;
- Protection of the rights of minority groups and women;
- Cultural and moral integrity;
- Safeguarding of the environment; and
- Strong defence capabilities.

It is in accordance with these principles that policies and strategies will be formulated and reviewed to represent the best interests of society. Observance of these principles will improve the governance for the people and ensure a high commitment to public accountability. *Islam Hadhari* also emphasises the sovereignty of the country through self-defence capabilities but holds a firm stance against aggression and terrorism.

17. In terms of values, the pace and magnitude of development required continued improvements in society's capacity to cope with the prevailing changes and pressures. Social problems that occurred included the breakdown of the

family unit, drug abuse and domestic violence. The lack of social values such as civic consciousness, courtesy, road ethics as well as attitudes towards corruption continued to be of concern. However, the level of political awareness appeared to have increased as indicated, among others, by the increased participation in the election process. In the 1990 election, 69.3 per cent of registered voters voted. In 2004, the percentage rose to 74 per cent and 75 per cent for the parliamentary and state elections, respectively.

Socio-Economic Equity

18. Poverty⁵ in Malaysia declined substantially during the 1991-2004 period. There was a marked reduction in the incidence from 22.8 per cent in 1990 to 5.7 per cent in 2004.

19. However, the share of income of the bottom 40 per cent declined from 14.5 per cent in 1990 to 13.5 per cent in 2004 while the share of the top 20 per cent increased slightly from 50 per cent in 1990 to 51.2 per cent in 2004. Correspondingly, the national Gini coefficient⁶ worsened from 0.442 in 1990 to 0.462 in 2004.

20. The higher growth of urban income resulted in the widening of the rural-urban income ratio from 1:1.70 in 1990 to 1:2.11 in 2004. Rural poverty remained high, especially in Sabah, Terengganu and Kelantan.

21. On the other hand, inter-ethnic income disparities improved slightly during the 1991-2004 period. The mean income ratio of Bumiputera to Chinese changed from 1:1.74 in 1990 to 1:1.64 in 2004 whereas the ratio of mean income of Bumiputera to Indian narrowed slightly from 1:1.29 in 1990 to 1:1.27 in 2004, as shown in *Chart 4*. Employment at all levels showed increasing ethnic diversity, contributing to a lessening identification of race with occupation, but there remained much room for improvement at professional and managerial levels. Equity ownership of the corporate sector by ethnic group in 2004 was 18.9 per cent for Bumiputera, 39.0 per cent for Chinese and 1.2 per cent for Indians.

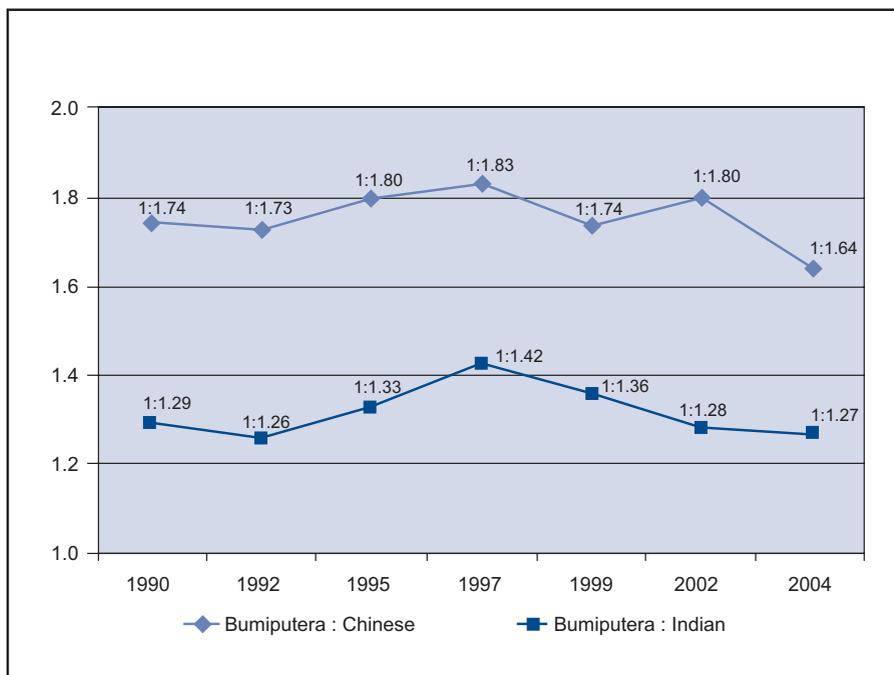
Quality of Life

22. The Malaysian quality of life, as measured by the Malaysian Quality of Life Index (MQLI), improved during the 1990-2004 period, increasing by 10.9 points, as shown in *Chart 5*. Except for public safety and the environment, all

⁵ Poverty incidence figures are based on Poverty Line Income derived from new methodology.

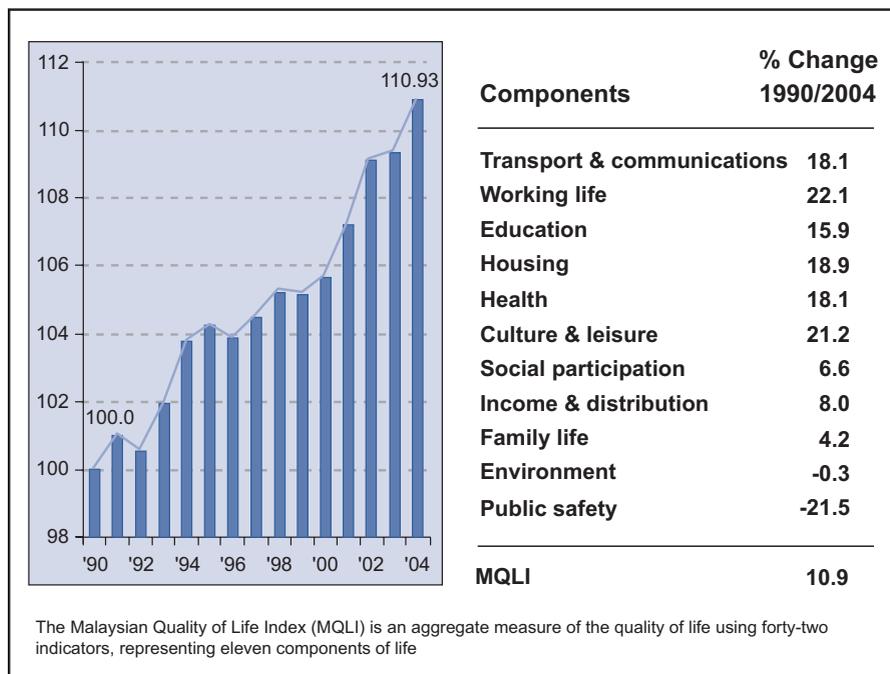
⁶ The Gini coefficient is a measure of income concentration. The value of the Gini coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 denotes complete equality of income share and 1 represents total inequality.

CHART 4
INTER-ETHNIC INCOME RATIOS, 1990-2004



Source: Economic Planning Unit

CHART 5
MALYSIAN QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX, 1990-2004



Source: Economic Planning Unit

components of the MQLI made good progress. The improvement in quality of life is also reflected in the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals⁷ ahead of the target date of 2015, except for HIV/AIDS.

23. Infant and child mortality rates showed a significant decline due to improvements in the national healthcare system, better education and greater reproductive health services. Life expectancy increased for both male and female, as shown in *Table 3*.

TABLE 3
SELECTED HEALTH INDICATORS, 1990-2005

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2005</i>
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)			
Male	68.9	70.0	70.6
Female	73.5	75.1	76.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	13.0	6.6	5.8
Toddler Mortality Rate (per 1,000 toddler population)	0.9	0.6	0.5
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	0.2	0.3	0.3

Source: Ministry of Health

24. Access to adequate, affordable and quality housing improved, as indicated by the increase in the household to house ratio from 1:1.14 in 1991 to 1:1.18 in 2005. The number of houses rose from 4.1 million in 1991 to 6.4 million in 2005.

25. National water supply coverage increased from 80 per cent of the total population in 1990 to 95 per cent in 2005. Urban coverage remained high while rural coverage rose significantly from 67 per cent in 1990 to 92 per cent in 2005. Measures were undertaken to reduce the proportion of non-revenue water from 43 per cent in 1990 to 38 per cent in 2005. However, there is room to improve water delivery efficiency further.

26. National electricity coverage expanded from 80 per cent in 1990 to 93 per cent in 2005. Rural electricity coverage rose significantly from 67 per cent in 1990 to 92 per cent in 2005. Although the situation has improved greatly,

⁷ The Millennium Development Goals, as agreed at the United Nations General Assembly, are to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership by 2015.

especially for Sabah and Sarawak, coverage in these states needs to improve further. As for telecommunications, market liberalisation of the industry since the 1990s has led to more competitive pricing and consumer choice, which in turn increased the cellular phone penetration significantly from 0.7 per 100 population in 1990 to 74.1 in 2005.

27. To ease traffic congestion, a multi-modal public transport system was implemented in the Klang Valley, which included the construction of the light rail transit (LRT) system, rail commuter service, monorail and feeder bus system. The highway and road network also grew from 53,985 kilometres in 1990 to 77,673 kilometres in 2005, which facilitated the establishment of new growth areas as well as reduced travel time and costs. To handle the increase in air passenger traffic, upgrading of airports was undertaken and new airports were built, the largest being the KL International Airport (KLIA) as the main gateway to the country. In addition, access by air to remote areas was improved.

28. The National Environment Policy provided an impetus to efforts to address environmental issues in an integrated manner. Among others, these efforts resulted in air quality remaining at good to moderate levels in most parts of the country and a decline in the number of polluted rivers. As a megadiverse country, Malaysia continued to take measures to protect its rich natural heritage. Over half of the country's land area remains forested and there is a comprehensive network of national and marine parks, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries as well as permanent forest reserves in place.

29. The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) continued to perform commendably, producing a crime-solving rate that is high by Interpol standards. Despite the PDRM's efforts, property-related crimes increased from 3.3 cases per thousand population in 1990 to 5.3 in 2004. Meanwhile, violent crimes rose from 0.5 cases per thousand population in 1990 to 0.9 in 2004. Recognising the increased expectations of the public over safety, more effort is needed to reduce the overall crime rate and thus provide a greater sense of security to the people. The Royal Commission to Enhance the Operations and Management of the PDRM was established in 2004 to identify ways to improve and augment the police force. The majority of the Royal Commission's recommendations are currently being implemented in stages. In addition, the community has an important role in improving public safety through continuous cooperation with the police.

Institutional Strength

30. The concept of a more proactive and customer-focused public sector began to take root during the period. The thrust of the changes was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector to provide quality services.

Various programmes were undertaken including quality management, implementation of the Client's Charter, efficient counter services, productivity and performance measurement, wider use of ICT, responsive public complaints management, and the inculcation of positive values and work ethics. The resulting improvements in productivity and customer satisfaction are promising, and efforts to further improve the public service delivery system will be intensified.

31. The focus on good governance in the public and private sectors increased in the period, to enhance transparency and efficiency and make Malaysia more competitive and attractive to investors. The National Integrity Plan (PIN) was launched in 2004 to galvanize efforts towards the creation of a Malaysian society with a high level of integrity. Laws and regulations were reviewed to increase efficiency and good governance in the corporate sector, including a review of the corporate governance framework for financial institutions, and the introduction of the Malaysian Code of Business Ethics or *Rukuniaga Malaysia*.

32. The establishment of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) under the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999 provided an institutional mechanism for the promotion of human rights. Between 2000 and 2005, SUHAKAM looked into 2,917 complaints related to issues of violation of rights and abuse of power⁸.

III. THE NEXT PHASE: THE NATIONAL MISSION, 2006-2020

33. The path towards 2020 will be fraught with challenges and difficulties as the local and global socio-economic landscapes continue to evolve. The next fifteen years will require tremendous national resolve and endeavour to achieve the set goals and objectives. As such, and in order to obtain the highest level of performance and the maximum impact from the country's national development efforts, the National Mission identifies five key thrusts for Malaysia:

First: To move the economy up the value chain

To be successful within the increasingly competitive global marketplace, Malaysia must move out from its 'middle development' stage towards a human capital-driven economy by:

- increasing the productivity, competitiveness and value add of established activities in the agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors

⁸ Out of 1,342 cases in 2005, 246 complaints were resolved, no further action was taken on 354 as there was no clear case of human rights violations while 742 are pending investigations.

- generating new sources of wealth in technology- and knowledge-intensive sectors such as ICT, biotechnology and skills-based services
- enhancing job creation and upgrading employment opportunities, particularly in high-technology and knowledge-intensive activities
- giving a lead role to the private sector and increasing private sector investment by providing an enabling environment for doing business, enhancing small and medium enterprise development, increasing public-private partnerships as well as attracting targeted high-quality foreign direct investment
- inculcating a culture of high performance and excellence in both the public and private sectors including in government-linked companies
- expanding the market for Malaysian products and services

The economy is projected to grow at an average rate of 6.0 per cent per annum for the period 2006-2010 and 6.5 per cent in the 2011-2020 period. TFP is expected to exceed capital and labour to become the main factor of production, growing to 41 per cent of GDP by 2020. The economy is projected to become even stronger in the services sector, with at least 5.0 per cent GDP contribution from technology-intensive subsectors.

Second: To raise the capacity for knowledge and innovation and nurture 'first class mentality'

Knowledge, innovation and values - in sum, the quality of the nation's human capital - will be the key determinants of Malaysia's future success as a knowledge-based economy. The country must raise the capacity of its people by:

- promoting *Islam Hadhari* as a comprehensive and universal development framework for the nation
- undertaking comprehensive improvement of the education system, from pre-school to tertiary level, from the aspects of curriculum and teaching to school facilities, with a special focus on raising the standard of schools in the rural areas
- enhancing national schools to become the people's *school of choice*
- producing universities of international standing and ensuring that tertiary institutions meet the needs of employers
- creating more avenues for skills development, training and lifelong learning for the labour force at all levels and for all ages, including in ICT

- providing an environment and innovation system, which encourages top-quality R&D and its commercialisation
- refining and implementing programmes, which encourage the development of a strong moral and ethical culture as encapsulated in the PIN
- empowering youth and women to participate fully in national growth and development

By 2020, the country targets to improve the appeal of national schools to the public. The extent of achievement will be indicated by the increase in the enrolment of Chinese and Indian students in national primary schools. The proportion of Chinese population in the age cohort of 6-11 years attending national schools is expected to expand from 6 per cent in 2005 to 12 per cent by 2010 while that of the Indians from 43.2 per cent to 60 per cent. All children will attain a minimum of 11 years of schooling. It is also targeted for at least two universities to achieve international repute and standing. For R&D, the ratio of GERD to GDP is projected to double, while the number of researchers per 10,000 labour force is expected to increase to 65. The number of patents and commercialised R&D is expected to rise significantly from the low base in 2005. In terms of access to technology, the penetration rate of personal computers is expected to grow from 21.8 per 100 population to 60, while broadband subscription is projected to expand from 1.9 per 100 population to 20. In terms of social values, it is targeted that attitudes related to civic consciousness and corruption will be improved by 2020, as reflected by national opinion surveys.

Third: To address persistent socio-economic inequalities constructively and productively

To strike at the heart of inequality, efforts must be focused on reaching the right target groups and by providing sufficient opportunities for advancement and capacity-building. These efforts include:

- eradicating hardcore poverty by 2010 as well as reducing overall poverty
- reducing disparities between the rural and urban population and among states and regions via sustainable income-generating avenues and by improving access to basic needs such as housing, education, healthcare, utilities and transportation
- developing less developed regions through regional growth centres
- bridging the digital divide
- addressing inter- and intra-ethnic disparities, particularly by raising incomes through the enhancement of skills and capabilities

- promoting equal opportunities in employment towards reducing disparities in occupation and income as well as enhancing integration among ethnic groups
- creating a new generation of competitive Bumiputera entrepreneurs and enterprises
- reviewing past restructuring policies and programmes to evaluate their effectiveness and impact, and to focus future policies and programmes on merit and need

Poverty is expected to be eradicated by 2020. The income share of middle income households is expected to increase to 40 per cent while the income share of the bottom 40 per cent will be targeted to be at least 20 per cent of the national income. These targets will drive towards reducing income inequality and accordingly, reduce the national Gini coefficient to 0.35 by 2020. Disparities among all ethnic groups will be narrowed, resulting in relative income parity in the longer term. The employment structure and hierarchy in the economy is expected to reflect the full and fair participation of all groups in the population. The mean income ratio of Bumiputera to Chinese is expected to improve from 1:1.64 in 2004 to 1:1.35 in 2020 while the ratio of the mean income of Bumiputera to Indian is expected to reach parity by 2020. In addition, the gap between rural and urban incomes is expected to reduce from 1:2.11 in 2004 to 1:1.70 by 2020. Bumiputera share of corporate equity is targeted to steadily increase and reach at least 30 per cent by 2020 while the Indian share of corporate equity is targeted to attain 3.0 per cent by 2020. In addition, steps will be taken to raise Bumiputera asset ownership in residential and commercial property, as well as in intellectual property.

Fourth: To improve the standard and sustainability of quality of life

The quality of life of the population will not be sustainable without a concerted effort to manage resources more wisely, especially in an environment of rising energy prices. The quality of life is also intrinsically linked to fulfilling basic needs as well as to maintaining peace, security and harmony. Addressing these manifold issues entails:

- ensuring better protection of the environment and more efficient usage of natural resources
- enhancing energy sufficiency and efficiency, including diversifying sources of energy
- increasing the efficiency of water services delivery
- providing better public transportation to relieve congestion and reduce fuel usage

- improving access to and quality of healthcare and affordable housing
- ensuring public safety and security
- enhancing the development and promotion of Malaysian culture, arts and heritage

The MQLI is expected to improve significantly in the period 2006-2020 with positive changes shown in the dimensions of environment and public safety. Usage of energy and water per capita is expected to become more efficient by 2020.

Fifth: To strengthen the institutional and implementation capacity

Achievement of the National Mission is contingent upon a well-functioning administrative and implementation machinery in the country. This machinery must be enhanced by:

- improving public service delivery by strengthening governance, streamlining administrative processes and measuring performance
- improving usage and cost-efficiency of public sector funds by upholding financial prudence as well as by improving the monitoring of implementation
- addressing actual and perceived corruption in both the public and private sectors
- enhancing corporate governance and delivery of private sector services by improving the legal and regulatory frameworks
- strengthening the role of Parliament, media and civil society

By 2020 key performance indicators would have been established and tracked across government departments to enable objective measurement of the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, particularly those of frontline agencies. The government machinery will be strengthened to emphasise greater enforcement and monitoring of impact. Actual and perceived corruption in both the public and private sectors will be reduced. Although difficult to measure, there will be a felt improvement in the role of Parliament, media and civil society as indicated by a greater capacity for open and constructive discourse on national development.

IV. CONCLUSION

34. The Ninth Malaysia Plan is the first of three five-year blueprints for the National Mission, encapsulating policy directions and programmes, which are aimed at delivering the Mission's philosophy and thrusts. The National Mission will drive the design and prioritisation of programmes, plans and budgets from the year 2006 onwards. With consistent and determined effort in the implementation and delivery of the National Mission, the nation will be well placed to achieve its aspirations and join the ranks of developed nations by the year 2020.