

million people or 59 per cent below 10 years of age.

"Emphasis on education will thus continue to be the main ingredient for our success and, I assure you, there will be no let-up on this," he said. He said the government was aware that innovation and creativity had become the core values of the new economy.

Intelligence or intellectual capital was the key source of competitive advantage in the transition to a knowledge-based economy, he said. Abdullah said tertiary education should not be solely for the acquisition of academic knowledge because education should be holistic in nature and should prepare students for life.

"We do not want graduates who merely regurgitate the knowledge they received in college or university.

"The nation urgently requires highly skilled people with a global mindset, who are bold and can configure knowledge and apply it to a wide range of contexts," he said.

He said this new crop of workers would be the nation's problem-identifiers and problem-solvers.

The country needed more of such thinkers and doers to weather the storms ahead, he said.

Abdullah reminded all parties, especially the younger generation, to be well-prepared to overcome the impact of globalisation.

"Malaysians, especially the young, must be educated on the need to strike a balance between the adoption of global values and the fulfilment of national aspirations.

"To achieve this, educational institutions must open students' minds to the world of possibilities and yet firmly root them to our unique history, culture and way of life," he said. -- BERNAMA

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