

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Prime Minister Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi launches  
“*Khazanah Merdeka Series*” to celebrate Malaysia’s 50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary**

*Nobel Laureate and former United Nations Secretary General Mr Kofi A. Annan will be the inaugural speaker at “Khazanah Global Lectures,” a lecture series under KMS*

**Kuala Lumpur, Thursday 12 July 2007** – As part of the national celebrations to commemorate Malaysia’s 50 years of independence, the Honourable Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi tonight launched the *Khazanah Merdeka Series* (KMS).

Under the ambit of *KMS*, there are three distinctive components: the *Khazanah Global Lectures* (KGL), the *Khazanah National Development Seminar* (KNDS) and the *Khazanah Megatrends Forum 2007* (KMF2007).

In celebration of this auspicious launch, the 2001 Nobel Prize Winner for Peace and former United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi A. Annan will be the inaugural guest speaker, to share his experience and expertise on nation building and international development.

Balancing international development within a social context is a topic close to Mr. Annan’s heart. He will offer his insights on Malaysia and the broader Asian region in the context of newly emerging economic and political powers; and how their influence



could shape the region's international, political and economic relations in the years ahead.

Two other Nobel Laureates will be speaking at the KGL throughout the year. They are the 2006 Nobel Prize Winner for Peace and the Founder and Managing Director of Grameen Bank, Professor Muhammad Yunus who will speak on 15 August 2007 and the 2001 Nobel Prize Winner for Economics and former Chief Economist of The World Bank, Mr. Joseph E. Stiglitz on 29 August 2007.

The Honourable Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Abdullah Hj Ahmad Badawi will speak on 10 December 2007 while the President and Chief Executive Officer of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., Mr. Carlos Ghosn will take to the stage in March 2008.

These speakers were selected based on their wealth of experience, international stature and intellectual contribution to development. Their insights and expertise will go some distance to extend the depth of knowledge building and sharing amongst Malaysians. With the theme "Development," each KGL speaker will share their experience and ideas on International, Economic, Social or Corporate development issues, while taking into consideration our nation's past, present and future direction.

Furthermore, to ensure a wider audience amongst the younger generation of Malaysians, there will be a live broadcast of the KGL to six universities throughout Malaysia, for the students to participate in the discussions.

The second component of the *Khazanah Merdeka Series* is the KNDS. The aim of the Seminar is to reflect on the path that the nation has taken since Merdeka, the challenges we overcame, postulate on how the future looks like and how to locate Malaysia in that future.

KNDS gathers Malaysians from various backgrounds to share their experiences in the development of the nation while also drawing upon the expertise of strategic thinkers to localise concepts and ideas.

The third component of the *Khazanah Merdeka Series* is the KMF2007. This Forum acts as a platform for world-renown thought-leaders in their fields to share their views on what are the key elements of future change that are relevant to business strategies and national development.

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### **About Khazanah Nasional Berhad**

Khazanah Nasional is the investment holding arm of the Government of Malaysia and is empowered as the Government's strategic investor in new industries and markets. As trustees to the nation's commercial assets, Khazanah's main objective is to promote economic growth and make strategic investments on behalf of the Government which would contribute towards nation building.

*Issued on behalf of Khazanah Nasional by Aleph One Sdn. Bhd.*

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