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A different Budget needed

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IS there going to be significant change in the direction and quality of Malaysia's socio-economic management? Will the 2001 Budget reveal new directions to economic management?

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has hinted that the Budget will be a good budget and that we hope to achieve a surplus!

This is welcomed but we hope there will be more policy changes in the Budget.

This appears to be the message given by the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in his opening address to the recent Malaysian Business and Economic Summit.

He outlined five Guiding Principles to chart the economy for the next decade - Competitiveness, Innovation, Transparency, Social Equity and National Unity.

This new set of priorities is laudable but it begs the basic question as to what will actually be done to achieve these high aspirations. Will the 2001 Budget reflect these principles?