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Abdullah: Dr M involved all the way in planning

DEPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, describing the Budget as pragmatic, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was involved in its planning since day one.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had chaired all the dialogue sessions with the private sector and took into consideration the views raised.

"The objectives of this budget is to insulate as well as to improve the country's economy due to the uncertainties in the world economy following the attacks on the United States.

"Being a trading nation, our economy is exposed to dangers due to these uncertainties as our trade with the US is significant," he said adding that 80 per cent of Malaysia's trade was transacted in the US dollar.

Abdullah hoped the proposed measures spelt out in the Budget would help revitalise the economy.

"We have the means to spur the economy by way of exploiting the resources available to make it more resilient.

"But the more important aspect is the support and commitment from the people," he said, adding that if such support was not forthcoming, the proposed measures may not work.

Abdullah also hoped the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry would increase enforcement activities so that retailers, traders and service providers would not indiscriminately hike prices.

He said if these were not checked, inflation may set in.

"Many people are bound to get more money to spend. This may lead to a higher inflation if traders are allowed to increase prices indiscriminately," he said adding that inflation should be at the lowest possible level.

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