

# States ordered to complete projects

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## We can't afford to be complacent, says Abdullah

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PENANG, Fri. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today reminded States that have yet to complete their pre-emptive projects to do so fast.

“Sure, the percentage of non-completion by most of the States is small, but they must finish the allocations and projects fast. They cannot be complacent with the rates of success that have been achieved.

“They must do more,” he said when asked to comment on the fail-

ure of many State Governments to fully utilise the funds allocated under the Government's efforts to stimulate the economy.

Abdullah was here to chair the State Bumiputera Steering Committee.

He said he was happy with the overall rate of achievement by the States, compared to the previous year.

“In 2000, the overall rate of completion was about 87 per cent but it shot up to almost 95 per cent last year.

“This is a marked improvement and it shows the numerous reminders by Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Dr Mahathir Mohamad for all States to make good the allocations are well heeded,” he said.

Only three States — Penang, Kelantan and Malacca — have fully utilised the allocations given to them.

As of Dec 31 last year, the remaining State Governments, including the Federal Territory, had only achieved between 78 per cent and 99.8 per cent completion of their projects.

A total of RM809.651 million was allocated for 26,577 pre-emptive projects as part of the Government's RM4.3 billion special allocation package to spur the economy and counter the economic slowdown.