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All sectors must cut red tape

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's call to eradicate corruption and cut red tape (NST, Nov 6) is most timely.

Having the tallest buildings and longest bridges in the world may not be relevant if they are not matched by the lowest corruption levels. Vision 2020 does not only envisage achieving the status of a developed country, but also a morally upright society.

When Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad took over the helm in 1981, he injected a large dose of energy into the public service. Processes which previously took months suddenly took only weeks. Seeming impossibilities apparently became possible. It just goes to show how much we can achieve if the spirit is willing.

Just before he became Prime Minister, Abdullah, when referring to the public sector, had said that a quick "no" was preferable to a slow "yes". Undue delay in processes merely breeds corruption when those wanting things done resort to unethical methods to hasten the process.

A frequent rationalisation of the public sector and even in many instances the private sector, is that delivery cannot match the expectations of those at the receiving end due to inadequate staff. This kind of rationalisation is incompatible with our Malaysia Boleh spirit.

All sectors must find ways to improve delivery either by stream-lining procedures, improving efficiency or increasing staff numbers.

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