

Take it from the PM

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took a series of questions from fund managers and the Press today. Below are some of the points he made:

● On the level of investments in the Malaysian market by local companies and fund managers:

"I am not really happy with the level of domestic investment. Malaysian companies must be able to lead the way. If we want foreigners to come, we must be there first."

● On the commitment by the Government to reduce the budget deficit:

"We are doing everything to bring down the deficit to 3.8 per cent. But while we must reduce the deficit, we cannot do that too drastically."

● On the role Malaysia can play to bridge the gap between the West and Muslim nations:

"What needs to be explained is that Islam is not a

religion that supports terrorism. There are explicit verses in the Quran which forbid terrorism. It is a religion that emphasises human development and progress.

"We are taking our role seriously. We are not only talking to Muslim countries but also to other countries. Malaysia is proof that a Muslim country can do well."

● On the goal of the roadshow:

"We came here with the intention of piquing the interest of investors here.

"We believe we have something to offer: an economy that is growing and doing well. There is a possibility that we will go to other countries. That is our duty if we want to introduce Malaysia to those who do not know us."



LEADING THE WAY: Abdullah answering questions from reporters at a news conference in London yesterday. — Reuters picture