

PM: I'll not tolerate shoddy work or delays

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KUCHING: Contractors, be warned.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday said that he would not tolerate shoddy workmanship and delays from those given contracts under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Action will be taken against contractors who fail to carry out their works in accordance with the specifications or who delay completing the projects," he told reporters after opening the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas)

campus in Kota Samarahan. Also present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

The Prime Minister said he wanted all projects under the 9MP to be carried out efficiently and without delay.

"We do not want to see a repeat of what happened to the Kuching prison project," he said, referring to the project which had yet to be completed after a delay of nine years.

The initial report from the Public Works Department (PWD) showed that the consultant did not carry

out supervision.

"When a project is privatised, the PWD's job is handled by the appointed consultant.

"When the project turns sick, then only the PWD will come in if the Government wants the PWD to assess what has happened," said Abdullah, who is on a two-day visit to the State.

The prison project was originally awarded to WMM Holdings. The company started work in 1997 and was to have completed the prison by August 2000.

After it failed to deliver, the company's contract was terminated.

The PWD, which took over the

project early last year, appointed TSR Bina Sdn Bhd as the new main contractor through open tender.

Yesterday, Abdullah ordered the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) to investigate the case.

The Prime Minister also noted that there were contractors who deserved praise for doing a competent job.

He cited an example of the construction of the General Operations Force camp at Batu Kawa.

"The project was implemented without any hitches as the contractor is a responsible one."