

PM raps the wasteful govt bodies

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PUTRAJAYA: Government departments and agencies have been told off for being poor at monitoring, implementing and maintaining government projects, causing inconveniences and wasting public funds.

Expressing disappointment over the state of affairs, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said bodies involved in planning, monitoring and implementation - such as the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU), and the Public Works Department (PWD) - should ensure that funds were used properly and benefited the public.

He said poorly monitored projects would not be implemented and would end up being abandoned, while bad maintenance of projects would also cause a project to be abandoned by the public.

"We want projects such as community centres and halls to be used by the public, otherwise they will become white elephants, but we also have to

study why the public shun halls built for them," he said, adding that dirty toilets without water supply at community halls would keep people away from such places.

Abdullah advised those responsible to avoid delays and wastage of funds by having proper monitoring and implementation, and providing good maintenance.

"When contractors are reprimanded for not implementing projects on time, we then discover that progress payments were not paid. The problem, in the end, is due to us," he said told the Prime Minister's Department staff at the monthly gathering here yesterday.

"The ones being blamed are government departments such as the PWD and local authorities, and this cannot - and should not - happen."

Abdullah said government circulars on the need for proper monitoring, implementation and maintenance had to be sent out as reminders to staff of their roles and responsibilities.

He said that this would ensure projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan would not see any hitches, or be a waste of public funds.