

Speed up workflow, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Speed things up, the Prime Minister has ordered.

There should be a relationship of mutual trust between the private and public sectors that will promote rapid response and action in decision making, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister noted that it now took government agencies like the Public Works Department "so much time" to

examine documents.

He suggested that for a speedier response, the private sector should take responsibility for the plans it submits.

"The most important thing is to adopt a policy which encourages full disclosure, transparency, accountability and trust," he said yesterday at the official launch of the Third Industrial Master Plan 2006-2020.

Abdullah said architects,

engineers and quantity surveyors in the private sector should be able to submit plans that complied with government specifications.

He said technical staff from the private sector should sign their plans to show their accountability.

He added that they could be held responsible should there be any legal action.

If there was this declaration on the basis of full disclosure,

transparency, accountability and mutual trust from the private sector, Abdullah believed approvals and licences could be given out quicker.

"I don't think it's necessary anymore for us to examine every pillar and every beam," he stressed.

Abdullah said Malaysia's strength in economic development was largely because of pragmatic policies and an open economic system that encour-

aged private sector participation.

"The best laid plans will not bear the desired results unless proper mechanisms are in place to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategies and policies," he said.

Abdullah also emphasised the importance of balanced socio-economic development to reduce inter-ethnic disparities and called for the development

of a resilient and competitive bumiputra commercial and industrial community.

He urged greater bumiputra and non-bumiputra collaborations to enhance competitiveness locally and globally.

Stressing the need for environmental sustainability, Abdullah said that he believed industrial and economic advancement could be achieved without damaging the environment.