

# PM: We can't focus on only one growth sector

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Development cannot be concentrated on one sector or area to generate economic growth, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said. The economic distribution has to be fair.

He said that although there were slight changes in the vision contained in the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) to counter socio-economic imbalances, there was no questioning the (original) objectives.

The Prime Minister said this when asked on the difference between the previous policy and the current policy in handling the socio-economic imbalance during an interview with RTM yesterday.

"If we are talking about today, gaps are said to be there. But there



are gaps not only between Malays and non-Malays or the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras.

"Indeed, there is a divide even among the developing sectors, as there are sectors that are weak and sectors that are not progress-

ing. There is also a divide between urban areas and rural areas. There is also a gap between the well-off and the not well-off," he said.

He added, however, that if there was a need to expand in an area that was already developed, it would have to be done.

"But then there are so many of these areas, and what about places that are yet to be developed?" he asked.

In terms of areas, the Prime Minister said that the Klang Valley was an area of dynamic growth with its development opportunities spilling over to surrounding areas right up to southern Perak, Negri Sembilan and Malacca.

The concept of borderless devel-

opment should, therefore, exist in Kedah, Perlis, Seberang Prai and northern Perak where the majority of industries are agriculture-based.

In the north, he said Penang could play a role similar to the Klang Valley as it had an international airport, port and strong economic infrastructure that raised the confidence of investors.

He said there were many examples along which economic development could be generated. He however said the focus should not be only on one sector.

Therefore, State Governments should work towards making their areas dynamic integrated growth centres with well developed infrastructure. — Bernama