

# 'They will get job done'

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## PM answers 'musical chairs' jibes

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.** — Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his new Cabinet comprises performers who will get the job done.

Responding to critics who said he had not removed "dead wood" and who had described the reshuffle as "musical chairs", the Prime Minister said he had confidence in his ministers.

"It's okay," he said. "It (criticism) does not matter."

Abdullah believed that with good planning, the ministers would play their roles in ensuring the success of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"All of them can perform. What is important is that we plan and decide how we will carry it out," he said after launching the 2006 Agro-based Industry Exposition at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Abdullah said he had retained ministers who performed and changed portfolios of some to widen their exposure and experi-

ence.

"We changed people and gave them a try at some other things. With that, they can perform better," he said.

He also pointed out that the ministers' performance would be monitored by a committee which would submit reports to him.

"Work hard. I will monitor (you) through a committee," he said.

The reshuffle two days ago saw eight ministries getting new heads, while two ministers resigned and two were dropped.

The two who resigned were Datuk Seri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Information) and Datuk Seri Adenan Satem (Natural Resources and Environment).

They were replaced, respectively, by former Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin and Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, who was moved out of Home Affairs.

The two who were dropped were

Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad (Tourism) and Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh (Higher Education).

They were replaced, respectively, by Tengku Datuk Adnan Mansor, who was dropped from the Cabinet in 2004, and Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi, who had opted for retirement in 2004 citing health reasons.

Another deputy minister promoted was Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique, who stepped into the Federal Territories Minister's post vacated by Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad, who was dropped last year due to involvement in money politics.

Abdullah said Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was retained because he and his team of officers had done a good job.

He had also mentioned Muhyiddin in his launch address, likening the veteran politician to a driver steering his vehicle in top gear.

"In driving, Muhyiddin can be considered as having engaged third or fourth gear. So how can I change the driver?" Abdullah said, to applause.

On a report quoting him as having reminded the Cabinet to be serious in making the 9MP a success and to quit if they could not get the job done, Abdullah said any minister who could not deliver should quit.

He also directed State Governments to help accelerate the growth of the agriculture sector and promote agro-based industries by allocating land for such purposes.

"For bigger States, there must be three to five areas.

"Menteris Besar, please listen to what I am saying. Do not be stingy with land allocations," the Prime Minister said, adding: "I know that land set aside for housing would bring bigger profits."