

PM: Don't delay 9th Plan projects

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PUTRAJAYA: On your marks, get set, go.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants civil servants to be ready to implement projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, which will be tabled in Parliament in 11 days.

"I don't want to hear of delays. Once the announcement (on the plan) is made, (you) must immediately swing into action.

"Don't just sit there and take three to four months to think of ways to implement projects. All of us must be in full gear to take on these long-term projects."

Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, was addressing civil servants of various departments and agencies under the ministry at a monthly gathering here yesterday.

He said they must be focused and pay extra attention to detail.

"We should not only pay atten-

tion to projects identified for this year but also next year, 2008 and so on. It is vital for us to ensure that the success of implementation is high for all the projects, regardless of size."

The Prime Minister said it was also important for civil servants to understand the projects for effective implementation.

"I hope to be able to explain to you (civil servants) after I have tabled it (the Plan). I will give a very detailed explanation so that there will be no confusion and all of you will understand the importance of having the projects carried out on time."

Also present were his two deputies, Datuk Fu Ah Kiew and Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum, and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Bakri Omar.

Abdullah also touched on the importance of continued peace and stability.

"These two elements are important before we can go ahead with the projects and implement

them as planned, and successfully."

Reiterating the need for civil servants and Malaysians to be prudent in their spending following the recent fuel price hike, Abdullah said a modest lifestyle for Muslims should encompass all aspects of life.

The Prime Minister also reminded ministry officers and staff to continue acquiring knowledge for the development of quality human capital.

He said he would continue reminding them on the matter as training alone was not sufficient in producing quality workers.

"Only knowledgeable and well-trained workers can lead by example. Those days, we talk a lot about manpower but now it is 'human capital'.

"The concept is broader as its emphasis revolves around not only training but also inculcation of moral values and integrity among workers. This should be a complete package for workers."