

# Abdullah, Dr M discuss development issues

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SEREMBAN, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the meeting with his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today was to get his views on the country's economic development.

"Dr Mahathir is a seasoned and experienced leader in development ... therefore it is good to listen to his views. I am happy that the meeting went well," he said.

Abdullah said the meeting was similar to the ones he had with the private sector, academicians and entrepreneurs to get their views on the country's development.

"He (Dr Mahathir) did not say anything specific on the issue.

"We had an open discussion and I just listened to any information and suggestions that were good for the country's development," he said.

On the special Cabinet meeting earlier today, Abdullah said there was a discussion and briefing on the progress of the nation's energy industry.

"I had a briefing from those in the industry ... I cannot tell you much now. We discussed the energy policy and its development. This is an important sector under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"With the oil price hikes, we discussed certain issues which needed consideration," he said.

Abdullah also said the Government would seek the co-operation of neighbouring countries, if necessary, in combating the spread of the bird flu.

He has instructed the Health Ministry and the relevant departments to closely monitor the spread of bird flu and use all existing mechanisms to fight it.