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PM: Private sector views will be considered

PUTRAJAYA: The Government will take into account suggestions, views and opinions from the private sector in the implementation of development policies and programmes, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister said non-governmental organisations (NGOs) representing the private sector and consumer associations had given their views in the Budget 2007 preparatory discussions yesterday.

"It was a constructive dialogue and we appreciate the views given by the industry. The session is necessary for

us to hear the views of the industry to help in formulating and implementing policies for better economic growth," he said.

Abdullah, who is also Finance Minister, said the Government would ensure the five thrusts outlined in the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) would be translated into programmes to steer the country towards achieving developed status.

"The public can be assured the five thrusts will be seen in the 2007 Budget," the Prime Minister said at a luncheon yesterday.

The five thrusts outlined in the 9MP are to move the economy up the value chain; to raise the capacity for knowledge and innovation and nurture "first class mentality"; to address persistent socio-economic inequalities constructively and productively; to improve the standard and sustainability of quality of life; and to strengthen the institutional and implementation capacity.

The luncheon was in honour of former Deputy Internal Security Minister Datuk Noh Omar, former ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Abu

Seman Yusof, former National Anti-Drug Agency director-general Datuk Hamzah Abdullah and former Civil Defence Department director-general Datuk Jamil Ariffin.

Noh is now Deputy Education Minister while Abu Seman is Deputy Federal Territories Minister. Hamzah and Jamil have retired from government service.

The Prime Minister, who congratulated Noh and Abu Seman on their new appointments, hoped that they would continue the good work they had done for the Internal Security Ministry.