

# Keep momentum going

Go with the flow of economic growth, PM tells ministry

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The Finance Ministry must take all necessary steps to keep the momentum of economic growth, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Abdullah, who is also Finance Minister, said this would enable the country to be prepared to face any global event that could stunt its progress and reduce its negative impact.

"I admit there are problems and weaknesses we have to tackle and overcome. We don't say that everything is perfect but what's important in this matter is to ensure the economic momentum surges forward," he said.

Abdullah was addressing Finance Ministry officials and staff during the ministry's monthly gathering here yesterday.

He said being prepared would enable the country to recover faster should there be any event that negatively affects the economy.

He said the Finance Ministry and Treasury were very important, as they had to disburse allocations to ensure the success of projects passed by Parliament.

As such, he called on the Treasury not to be miserly but to spend wisely to stimulate growth.

The Prime Minister also called for speedier decision-making.

"The speed at which decisions are made must be increased. The private sector expects dynamism from the public sector and we too expect dynamism from them," he said.

On another matter, Abdullah con-



**Premier's speech:** Abdullah speaking during the Finance Ministry's monthly gathering in Putrajaya yesterday. On the right is Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin. — Bernama

gratulated new Treasury secretary-general Datuk Dr Wan Abdul Aziz Wan Abdullah on his appointment and advised him to listen to his officers and staff.

"Be sincere, frank and professional,

and give your points and views clearly for him to listen, and I expect him to listen," Abdullah told ministry staff.

Abdullah also told them of the many thank you and congratulatory messages that were sent to him by

many people over the current economic success.

"Together we must manage success well and this means that success must be sustainable and not felt in passing," he said.