

# PM wants results in six months

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The task force set up to facilitate the delivery system and enhance economic activity has been given six months to deliver.

A day after its formation was announced, the prime minister said yesterday in no uncertain terms that he wanted the body to be action-oriented and not bogged down by dialogues.

"Six months... they have to achieve something or make some progress," Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said after the visits of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin and his consort, Tuanku Nur Zahirah, to the Prime Minister's Department.

The 23-member task force, known by its Malay acronym Pemudah, is jointly chaired by the Chief Secretary to the government, Tan Sri Sidek Hussein, and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president, Datuk Yong Poh Kon.

The task force, which is to report

directly to Abdullah, will overhaul archaic and unnecessary licensing and bureaucratic procedures.

The other members are 12 top civil servants from ministries engaged in dealing with businesses and the public, and nine leading private sector individuals.

Abdullah expects the body to give its views on new measures and steps to be taken to enhance efficiency in the delivery system.

"It will not be a body that just holds dialogues or one that only allows exchange of questions between representatives from the sectors."

During the Press conference, Abdullah also announced the creation of an implementation arm to complement the task force.

Called 3P (*penyelarasaan, penyampaian, perkhidmatan* or co-ordination, delivery, services), it is to be chaired by Sidek and will comprise senior officers from selected government departments.

"It will look into internal problems arising in the public sector. They will have to meet, at least once

a fortnight, or even better if they can have two or three meetings.

"Through this committee, weaknesses in the public sector can be identified and addressed."

Abdullah said the Prime Minister's Department had achieved commendable results in terms of making prompt payments.

"The date for payment to be made as set by the government is between one and 14 days. Our officers, however, managed to resolve 98 per cent of applications for payment within seven days. We should maintain this kind of performance or success."

Abdullah stressed that public servants had to be motivated.

"We can motivate them and ensure the system is improved so that they are motivated."

He said there was no need to increase the number of officers making payments.

"The same number of officers, the same system. This is what we should maintain."

He said reshuffle would only be carried out if there was a need.