

# PM: Malaysians more confident about economy

NST - 17/2/2007



Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi receiving a basket of Mandarin oranges from Malaysian National Printers (PNMB) officers Irene Lee Siew Peng (in blue) and Lilian Ding (in white). With them are Internal Security Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof (second from right) and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan.

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The record RM46 billion achieved in foreign and domestic investments and an active share market have given new hope to the people and made them feel more comfortable.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday that from what he read and the reports he received, the people were more confident that the economy would continue to grow.

"Our economy is getting stronger, be it in terms of foreign and domestic investments, or the share market. The share market remains active with the volume of shares traded reportedly high and the index, soaring. All this gives new hope to the people," the prime minister, who is also Internal Security Minister, said at the monthly gathering of all department and agencies under the ministry.

"This high level of development makes the people feel more comfortable. In the past, they were worried about what would happen to our economy. From what I have read and reports received, they are more confident of the economic development. Hopefully, this will spur them to work harder."

Abdullah's decision to form a high-powered 23-member task force to promote quicker reform of the delivery system, indicated the government's seriousness in wanting to make the country an attractive investment destination.

Abdullah also called on all civil servants to continue striving to enhance the public service delivery system.

"Our intention must be good and sincere, that is to give the best service to the people, no

other intention like to enrich ourselves. To the government, assistance must be extended so that all policies and plans can be implemented smoothly."

He said that they should focus on the objectives of their work. "Whatever has been outlined for this year must be carried out to the best of our ability. I have stressed many times the importance of enhancing the public service delivery so that it becomes a dynamic system that can reflect the performances of all ministries or agencies."

The prime minister added that it was also important for public servants to add value all the time to their services to ensure better performances all year round.

"For a country that is developing, definitely the people want success, progress, peace and stability. That is why it is important for us to understand our role and responsibility so that we continue to perform better."

Abdullah said every challenge comes with an opportunity. "If we want to grab the opportunity, then we must be ready to face the challenges. Face all obstacles with confidence because we are capable... we have the knowledge and skills to face all this."

The prime minister ended his speech by extending Chinese New Year greetings.

Abdullah said research showed that the level of family comfort and convenience in the country stood at 8.2 out of a total of 10 while on matters relating to courtesy, Malaysians scored 7.2.

He also expressed gratitude to enforcement agencies and departments involved in the recent search-and-rescue operations during floods in Johor and other states.