

Putrajaya 'will brook no unnecessary delay'

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Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam looking at exhibits at the opening of the Malacca Home Affairs Ministry Complex in Hang Tuah Jaya yesterday.

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MALACCA: The prime minister has told the leaders of all states to speed up projects in the Ninth Malaysia Plan, emphasising that Putrajaya would brook no unnecessary delay.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said swift implementation was his most important message at yesterday's meeting with menteri besar and chief ministers at the prime minister's office.

"I also told all the menteri besar and chief ministers that the state governments and federal government must work hand in hand to successfully and effectively implement the projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Payment for the completed projects must also be prompt," he said, adding that the government no longer wanted to hear complaints from contractors about late disbursements.

"We still have a lot to implement

and what we do for the people should be reflected at all levels, in the federal and state administration.

"I also urged the state governments to improve the public delivery system.

"We are a people-centred government," Abdullah told reporters after opening the Malacca Home Affairs Ministry Complex in Hang Tuah Jaya.

In his speech, the prime minister said the government was in the midst of providing the best services all over the country, and not only in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

"If we only provide services like the immediate issuance of MyKad and passports in our offices in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, how are the people staying in other states such as Malacca going to enjoy a better public delivery system?"

"This complex houses the Immigration Department, National Registration Department and the other departments that come un-

der the Home Affairs Ministry, meaning that they are all centralised, so that people will not have to rush from one place to another to get the MyKad and passports done," he said.

The prime minister also called on the civil servants in the departments housed in the complex to show a high level of efficiency in providing quality services.

"There is no point having all the infrastructure but the service provided is still poor.

"We have to perform our duties well and effectively to ensure the expectations of the people are met," he said.

At the ceremony, Abdullah also launched the i-Kad — a new immigration document that will replace the current identification card issued to foreign workers, foreign maids, international students, trade officers and those who chose to make Malaysia their second home.

The i-Kad, which has 17 physical high-security features to prevent cloning, contains two biomet-

ric fingerprints, the colour photograph of the bearer and information on the bearer in a chip using the "karsof secure chip" technology.

The technology is the first application of its kind in the world.

Four other features in the i-Kad are also in the process of being patented as Malaysian.

Abdullah described the i-Kad as a very sophisticated identification card which was fool-proof.

"However, I'd like to advise the holders of the i-Kad to ensure it does not fall into the wrong hands," he said.

Abdullah also said that various projects under the e-government programme had been implemented but would be meaningless if the people did not embrace technology.

"We have to change with the times and be prepared to learn.

"The government's intention is to improve its services but at the same time the people too have to move towards becoming an e-community," he said.