

# Buck up, civil servants told

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## Improve efficiency and integrity, says PM

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The civil service has yet to achieve a satisfactory level of efficiency and integrity, which is crucial for the nation to maintain its competitive edge, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This, said the Prime Minister, was reflected in the fact that there was still talk of the need for improvement in the two areas as well as the public delivery system.

He said it was even more important for the civil service to improve its efficiency and integrity as the country geared up to carry out programmes under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP),

"There are people who question whether the programmes that we have carefully mapped out under the 9MP will be effectively carried out."

"I don't want the perception that we are good on ideas but short on implementation to stick," he added when opening the National Integrity and Management Committee Convention here yesterday.

Stressing that the public and private sectors must complement each other, Abdullah said Malaysia was facing numerous challenges, including growing competition for foreign direct investment and market access.

He said if Malaysia's capacity to compete was out of step with other countries, the nation

would regress.

He also expressed frustration over the slow pace of measures taken to cut back on bureaucratic delays.

Later, Abdullah noted that capacity-building programmes between Organisation for the Islamic Conference (OIC) countries could serve as a model for members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

OIC countries, he said, should be willing to lend a hand to other nations apart from member states.

"We must commit to undertake projects that will enable us to cooperate and share our experiences," he said, when opening the three-day OIC Conference on Human Capital Management.