

DATE: 3 / 6 / 2008

PM: Don't waste water and power in offices

NST-3/6/2008

■ **By Deborah Loh**
news@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Saving energy, water and other resources should also be practised in the office as part of a lifestyle change to adapt to rising prices.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also said that prudent energy usage in the office need not lead to lower productivity, as the goal was to avoid wastage.

He called on civil servants to adopt minimal use of lighting and water, and also asked them to make suggestions on other ways the government administration

could cut wastage as this would have an impact on the subsidy bill.

"I want civil servants and heads of department to contribute their ideas on how the government can take action. It will, in the long run, reduce the people's burden caused by rising oil and food prices for which the government has to spend an increasing amount in subsidies.

"If we allow the amount of subsidies to rise above operational costs, it will cause problems for the government," he told staff of the Prime Minister's Department at their monthly assembly yesterday.

Abdullah said civil servants should give their ideas to their

heads of department, who should forward them to Chief Secretary of the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan.

This is not the first time Abdullah has called for a change of lifestyle to adapt to rising commodity prices. He said the government was very concerned about food security and energy efficiency.

In the past, he has spoken on consumers' responsibilities to spend wisely and only on what they needed, and urged the public to take small steps like planting vegetables at home for personal consumption.

Yesterday, he said the same concepts could be practised at the

workplace, such as by using lights only when and where needed, turning them off after leaving the room, and by not letting the tap run when using the bathroom.

Touching on his recent working visit to Japan, he said Malaysians could learn from the Japanese who were prudent in using electricity.

"They are used to only having the lights on in the room they are in, instead of lighting up the whole house," he said.

He said Malaysia should also adopt the Japanese approach to increase food production by using modern technology and other farming best practices.