

# Get rid of red tape, PM tells civil servants

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Any bureaucratic procedure or regulation that gives rise to obstacles and delaying the implementation of projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan must be done away with, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I emphasised to the senior officers how important it is to abolish or simplify procedures that slow down the implementation of projects," he said after a two-hour meeting with senior civil servants at the Putrajaya International Convention

Centre here yesterday.

"This is particularly true in the acquisition of land for Government projects. So any project requiring this process should have action planned out in advance."

Asked if the National Land Code would thus be amended to facilitate the acquisition process, Abdullah said problems only arose when the piece of land had been given to someone else or had its use determined.

"That is why early planning of land use is important," he said.

Another method of simplifying procedures, Abdullah added, was requiring applicants for a project or service to fully disclose the details and to acknowledge this information as correct.

"And if the applicants have been found to have made false claims, then action can be taken against them," he said.

"Then officers will not have to take a long time to consider their applications because the disclosure has been made with full knowledge of the consequences of their action."

Abdullah also said it was important for agencies and ministries involved to issue directives or circulars as soon as a decision made by the Government had been announced.

"Communications within the ministries is very important. And that's why I stressed to them in my meeting that all stages of implementation of a project is planned quickly and decided by all involved so that everybody knows his respective duties," he said.

Earlier, in Kuala Terengganu,

Abdullah expressed confidence that Terengganu would benefit most from ongoing development in the east coast region.

"The state is now undergoing an era of rapid development," the Prime Minister said when launching Permodalan Nasional Bhd's Unit Trust Week here.

This, he said, was in line with the Federal Government's approach on regional development.

Abdullah said he did not want development in the east coast region to lag behind other regions.