OPPOSITION Leader Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the "opposition budget" was drafted based on the country's revenue in 2002 and estimation of the 2003 revenue.

Hadi, who presented proposals of the "alternative budget" during his debate, said it was also based on economic growth brought about by higher taxation to fund new subsidies and incentives.

He said the annual budget tabled by Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was still a deficit budget.

"What is so fantastic about the exclusive sources that the Finance Minister has? At the end of the day, the budget is merely an estimation.

"Although he has adequate information, as we can see, the budget is still a deficit budget," he said.

Hadi claimed that many proposals that were announced by the opposition on Sept 17 were also mentioned in the government budget.

"We are not saying that the Finance Minister copied our budget but that could be possible too," he said.

Hadi said the term budget used by Dr Mahathir was an estimation as it was an aspect of the country's planning.

Stressing that the opposition also had the right to draft its own budget, he said the opposition's strategy was to reduce operational and development expenditure, introduce new fiscal measures to balance deficit and make maximum returns from public fund investment.

Hadi said the opposition proposed that the government spend wisely to avoid high amount of debts.

"Based on our calculations, the country's revenue for 2003 is estimated at RM90bil. This is based on higher revenue that has been anticipated by the government."

Hadi, who was interrupted on numerous occasions by backbenchers throughout his two-hour speech, only allowed a few MPs to cut in.

He said the opposition strategy focussed on the people, businessmen and correcting the errors of privatisation.