

PM to launch masterplan to transform Kedah into developed state

By Ian McIntyre

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SUNGAI PETANI, Thurs: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the Kedah 2010 development masterplan tomorrow during a one-day working visit to the state.

The masterplan is for-

mulated to ensure that Kedah attains developed status within the next 10 years.

The plan will focus on three core growth areas, namely the industries, agriculture and tourism sectors but equal importance will also be given to social economic policies such as housing, local authorities, environment preservation

and religious programmes.

The plan is also a bid to emulate other neighbouring states in providing better quality of life.

Despite the edgy political climate with the Opposition eyeing the state in the next general election, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain is counting on the masterplan to

sway the voters with an ambitious development strategy to transform Kedah into a leading state.

Besides consolidating the industries at the Kulim Hi Tech Park and industrial zones of Sungai Petani, the state will also open up Bukit Kayu Hitam - turning the border township into an Asean Industrial

Park with a Boeing components production plant as the anchor tenant.

For agriculture, the state's economic development corporation and various related federal and state agencies were roped in to explore the state's vast farming land.

Syed Razak had announced the possibility of

setting up an agriculture university and various supporting industries to modernise the agriculture sector and help the federal government reduce the country's food import bill.

With tourism being centred around Langkawi, the island is set to become a major attraction to lure tourists to the state.