

Need to extract more out of crops

KOTA MARUDU: More local research must be tapped to further diversify products that can be derived from Malaysia's primary commodities such as rubber and palm oil.

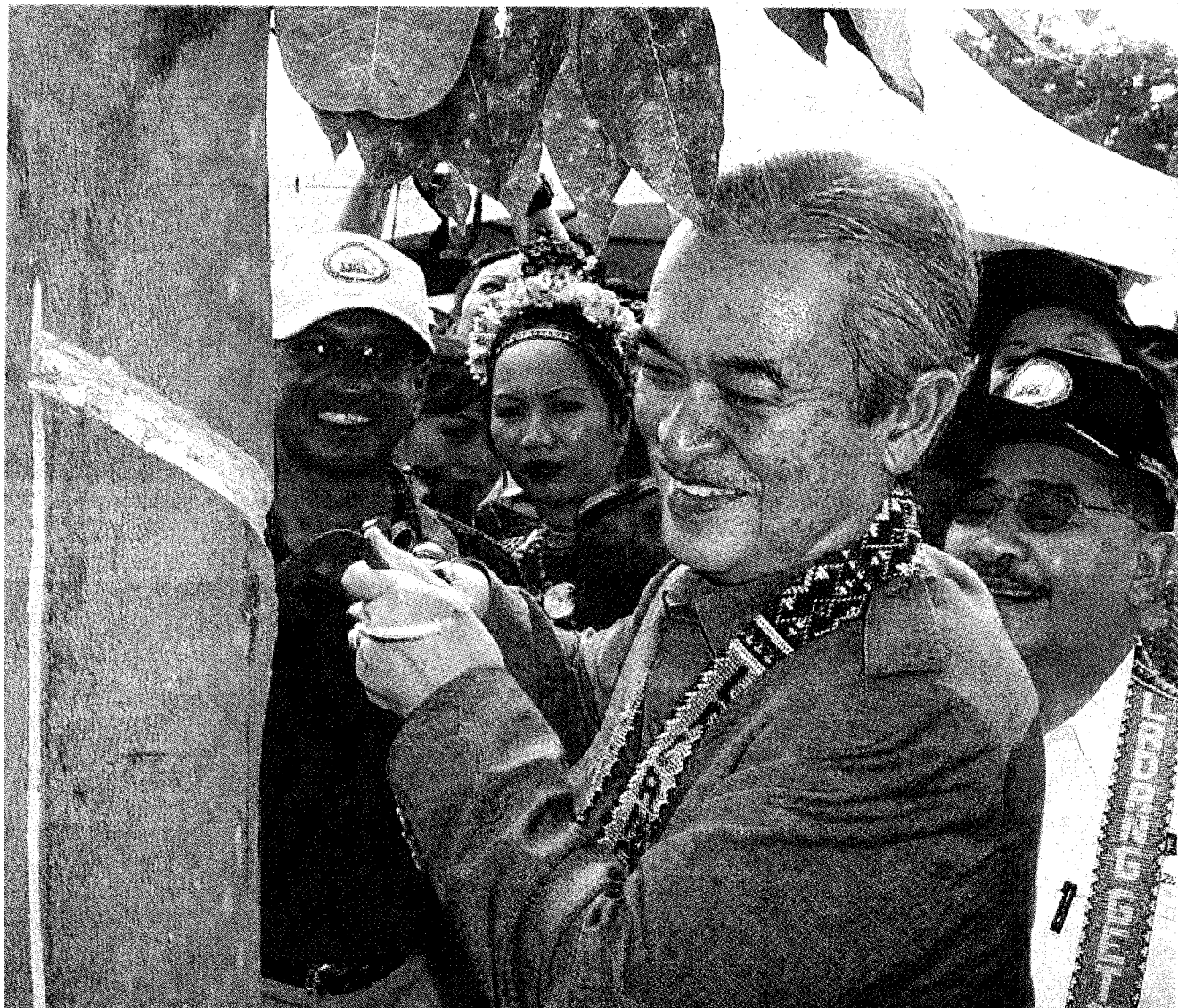
Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysian know-how had resulted in bio-diesel being developed from palm oil, while some foreign furniture manufacturers now consider rubber wood as premium material.

"It is not too far-fetched for our rubber wood to be marketed as Malaysian oak. That is how well it is received internationally," the Prime Minister said when launching a 10,000ha rubber plantation in Pitas district.

He said he was informed that current research into rubber by Malaysian scientists had resulted in the synthesising of Vitamin E from latex.

"There is so much potential in rubber and other commodities today."

This augured well for the Government's poverty eradication efforts since rubber and oil palm figured prominently in assisting the hardcore poor attain better incomes, he said.



COMMODITIES POTENTIAL: Abdullah tapping a rubber tree after launching a 10,000ha rubber plantation in the northern Pitas district in Sabah yesterday.