

Besut's brain bank

Terengganu to get RM250 mil unique project, says PM

BY K. SUTHAKAR

KUALA TERENGGANU: Terengganu will get another big project - the RM250mil International Knowledge Centre.

The centre, to be located in Besut, would be the first of its kind in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the centre would be a well-planned resort-like environment, conducive for the setting up of a series of universities.

It would be located on a 283ha site near the coast, next to Universiti Darul Iman Malaysia (UDM).

"Construction work will start early next year and it will be completed within two years," he told reporters after closing the two-day state Umno convention here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the centre would share common facilities like a mosque, library, student centre and sporting facilities.

"We want buildings which are functional - not impressive-looking buildings as the aim is to develop human capital."

The centre is set to be the sixth mega project to be implemented in the state after Barisan Nasional wrested the state back from PAS in March 2004.

The existing projects are the RM2.1bil East Coast Highway, RM200mil Islamic Civilisation Park, RM200mil Sultan Mahmud Airport expansion project and the RM192mil main stadium complex.

Earlier, about 10,000 people - many holding banners expressing support for Abdullah - greeted him when he arrived at the Sultan Mahmud Airport.

At the closing ceremony, Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the state Umno fully supported Abdullah's leadership.

"There can be only one captain to lead Malaysia, not two or three captains," Idris said as he joined the 1,185 delegates in declaring "We Support You, Pak Lah" and "We Love You, Pak Lah."

Abdullah said he appreciated the support shown to him, adding that he would strive to bring more development to the state.

Among those present were Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, party information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo and Kelantan Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Annuar Musa.



ENJOY THE RIDE: Idris sending Abdullah to the Umno convention centre in a trishaw during a downpour in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. —Bernamapic