

PM: Those who get in the way will be removed

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KANGAR: Heads of department and civil servants who frustrate the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) will be removed.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Government would not tolerate those who undermined the plan.

“Remember what Pak Lah has told you: Facilitate and not frustrate,” the Prime Minister told civil servants in Perlis at a meeting at Dewan Warisan here yesterday.

Perlis was the first stop in a series of scheduled visits across the country to meet the people who would execute the strategies of the 9MP.

He said millions would be frustrated if things did not progress smoothly.

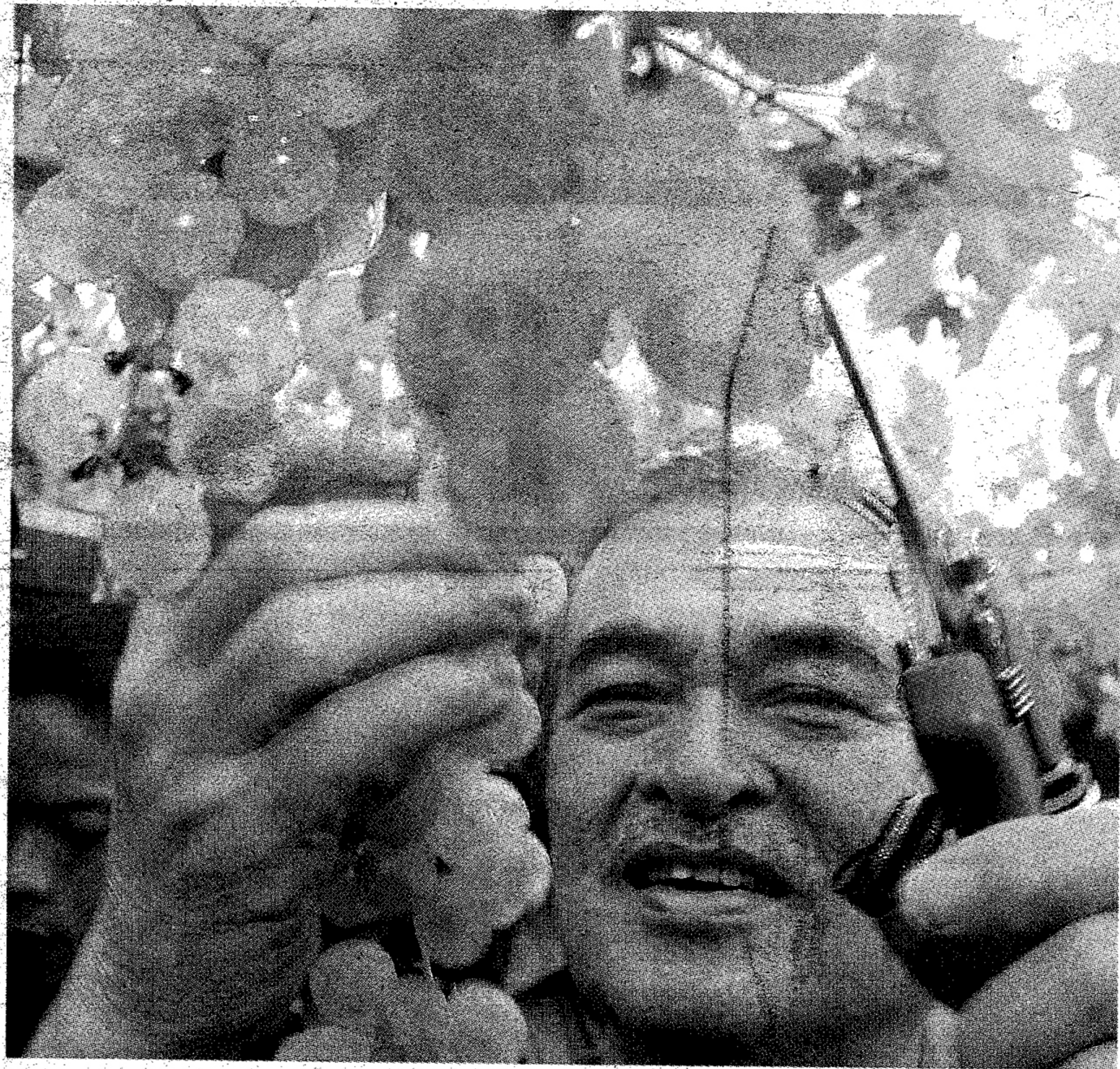
“When they become frustrated, they become angry because they cannot enjoy the benefits (of the 9MP),” said Abdullah, on a one-day visit to the State.

The Prime Minister also wants civil servants to reduce red tape and avoid creating problems which could drive away investors.

He expected civil servants to enhance their performance and add value to their work.

“We must have the right system of administration. Something is not right if it takes a long time to approve a piece of land.

“There’s no point having brilliant ideas when we do not know how to get it done and gain from it. We can have gold, but if we do not know how to mine it, we can never enjoy its benefits.”



Abdullah cutting a bunch of grapes at the farm in Batu Pahat yesterday. — NST picture by Shahrizal Md Noor

The 9MP has received an overwhelmingly positive response from investors, economists and analysts. Abdullah urged civil servants to work hard as the 9MP would take the people to prosperity and progress. Income disparity in certain States, he said, had to be narrowed.

This was why the Government had planned the development of the Northern Peninsular Corridor, covering Perlis, Kedah, northern

Perak and Seberang Prai, and the Eastern Corridor of Kelantan, northern Terengganu and western Pahang.

Abdullah earlier visited a grape farm and a herb farm in Batu Pahat near here and launched a halal hub in Padang Besar.

After a meeting with Perlis civil servants later, Abdullah said the response from people he met had been very positive.

Asked on his stern reminder to

heads of department and civil servants to “facilitate and not frustrate”, Abdullah said: “I am firm about (removing those who attempt to frustrate the 9MP efforts).”

On why he had to go on a nationwide tour to explain the 9MP, Abdullah said he wanted to meet state leaders, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to get them to “have a sense of mission”.